STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

FIFTH REPORT

A Proposal to Refine ***The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan***

November 7, 2013

THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Legislative Assembly

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November 7, 2013

To the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly:

HONOURABLE MEMBERS:

I have the pleasure to present herewith the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on House Services. The Committee is authorized by the Assembly to examine such matters as it deems advisable with respect to the rules, procedures, practices, and powers of the Legislative Assembly, its operations, organization, and the facilities and service provided to the Assembly, its committees, and Members.

One of the objectives of the committee was to improve the understanding of the Assembly's procedures by putting more of the unwritten practices into the rule book. Another objective was to use the experience of the last six years since the last review to make improvements. I believe these objectives are achieved by the broad range of recommendations presented in this report.

This report is largely the result of the hard work done by a sub-committee, which was appointed at the beginning to this Legislature. The sub-committee was composed of the Speaker, the Government House Leader, the Honourable Jeremy Harrison, MLA, and alternately by two Opposition House Leaders: Mr. Warren McCall, MLA, and Ms. Cathy Sproule, MLA. I want to recognize the leadership and contribution of my colleagues. All three of these Members worked diligently and cooperatively in the common interest of improving the rules. I also want to thank the Clerk, Gregory Putz; Legislative Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, Ken Ring; Principal Clerk, Iris Lang; and, Senior Committee Clerk, Kathy Burianyk, for their expertise and valuable contributions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Chair
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Cannington MLA

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Members who previously served on the committee:
Cathy Sproule – Saskatoon Nutana MLA
Hon. Randy Weekes – Biggar MLA

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I. ORGANIZATION

On December 7, 2011, the Standing Committee on House Services appointed a sub-committee to study and make recommendations on revisions to *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. The sub-committee initially consisted of the Speaker (Hon. Dan D'Autremont), the Government House Leader (Hon. Jeremy Harrison) and the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Warren McCall). The Opposition House Leader position changed on March 14, 2013, and as a result Ms. Cathy Sproule served on the sub-committee until August 31, 2013, when Mr. McCall once again became the Opposition House Leader.

Over the last two years, the sub-committee met formally six times to review the standing orders. Outside of these formal meetings, there were countless hours of review and discussion in order to reach a consensus on revisions and further modernization of the Assembly's Rules.

II. PREFACE

Parliamentary procedure is the means by which the Assembly controls its own activity for the orderly transaction of business. There are two elements of parliamentary procedure. There are the printed rules and the unwritten customs. The printed rules are the permanent "standing orders" of the Assembly and the customs are described as "parliamentary practice." Despite the existence of some 160 standing orders in the current rule book, it is actually the unwritten parliamentary practice that forms the general framework of most of the Assembly's proceedings. Practice is the sum of thousands of precedents, making it a complicated subject. A goal of this report is to improve the general understanding of the Assembly's parliamentary procedures by transferring more of the unwritten practices to the rule book. Your committee proposes many new rules that put in writing for the first time long-established practices that have governed proceedings. Some examples are new rules for ministerial statements, the oral presentation of petitions, the scope of debate for the Seventy-five Minute Debate, the treatment of amendments, proceedings on Appropriation Bills, the Chamber galleries, and dilatory motions. Your committee also recommends a new rule to restrict the use of "omnibus bills," which will codify an important Assembly convention.

In December 2007, the Assembly adopted the final report in a series of reforms to modernize the operation of the Legislative Assembly. Since then the Assembly has had nearly six years of experience with the reforms that now shape modern Saskatchewan parliamentary procedure. Your committee reviewed what has worked well and what needs fine tuning. A number of changes are recommended as a result of the review. Some examples are rule changes to clarify the process for the reinstatement of government public bills and a tightening of the definition of "budget bills."

Despite hundreds of years of parliamentary practice, some problems cannot be foreseen. The Rules do not always provide an answer for procedural difficulties, so adjustments are necessary to correct a problem. This report contains changes to address procedural difficulties with the Assembly's rules for raising questions of privilege and for the parallel procedures associated with Priority of Debate motions. Time limits on speeches are proposed for each of those processes.

Parliamentary practice is also influenced by rulings of the Speaker. In this regard, your committee recommends a small change to tighten up the rule for responses to written questions, as well as a new rule applicable to documents cited by Ministers and ministerial statements.

For some time, Speakers have asked for an option to enforce the authority of the Chair that stops short of "naming" a Member. Your committee considered options and presents a recommendation in this report.

The review of the Rules was also an opportunity to do some housekeeping. Within the body of the proposed rule changes are a number of minor adjustments to processes and terminology.

Finally, your committee reports that it is not finished its review of the rules. An examination of the rules for Private Members' Day was started but not concluded. As well, before the end of the current Legislature, your committee intends to make recommendations for the modernization of the Assembly's broadcast and multi-media guidelines. These have not been updated since inception in 1983.

The many revisions and additions to the Rules are summarized in the next sections of this report. The appendix to this report contains a complete revision to *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.*

III. REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE RULES

SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Commencement of Session
Under the Rules, a session normally begins on the fourth Wednesday of October. The exception is in a year when a general election is held and when the fourth Wednesday coincides with the date of municipal elections. In the latter case, the commencement of session is to start on the fourth Thursday of October. Your committee proposes a change to the rule so that the session will always commence the Thursday immediately after the municipal election.

Sittings affected by Remembrance Day
The Assembly does not meet on Remembrance Day; however, the Rules do not address when Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday and is observed on a Monday. Also when Remembrance Day falls on a Tuesday or Wednesday, it is difficult for Members to travel to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies in their constituencies and return to the Assembly for one day of session. The current practice is that a sessional order is passed to give direction on how the Assembly will address this anomaly. This new rule outlines that when Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday, the Assembly does not sit on the Monday; when it falls on a Tuesday, the Assembly does not sit on the preceding Monday; and when Remembrance Day falls on a Wednesday, the Assembly does not sit on the following Thursday.

PRIVILEGE

Questions of Privilege
The parliamentary privileges of the Legislative Assembly allow Members to perform their duties without fear of intimidation or punishment and without impediment. These rights and immunities underpin our Westminster style of parliamentary democracy. A breach of privilege or contempt against the authority of parliament is a matter of high consequence and should be treated with the utmost seriousness. For that reason it is incumbent upon the Assembly to have in place rules and procedures to appropriately consider and ultimately decide a question of privilege. It should be recalled that the Speaker does not decide questions of privilege. In the end, that is the responsibility of Members who are expected to act in the best interest of the institution. The rules should ensure that Members know the specifics of a case brought

before the Assembly, that there is a clear question to consider, and that there is an equal opportunity to engage in a full debate on the matter.

Great strides were made in this regard in 2007, when the Assembly last made changes to its procedure for privileges questions. Previously the details of a case were only provided to the Speaker, which left those Members with opposing arguments at a disadvantage if the question was allowed to proceed. The new rules provided for full disclosure of a case in advance of it coming under consideration in the Assembly. However, the rule inadvertently left a loophole by saying that this disclosure was to happen "where possible." That phrase was a legacy of the old process and was meant to have been removed from the rule. The rule proposed in this report closes that loophole.

Experience with the new privilege rule demonstrated that it should have been more prescriptive in terms of what is required for notice. The changes proposed in this report will clarify what information is required to be submitted to the Speaker. The component parts of notice are now clearly outlined in the rule.

When the Speaker determines that a privilege case merits consideration, the Member who raised the question must put it to the Assembly in the form of a motion. Privilege questions take priority over all other business, and for that reason they cannot be adjourned and must be decided by the end of the sitting that day. That process has lead to an unintended consequence. It has been possible for the mover of a privilege motion to keep the floor until the end of the sitting and "talk out the clock." Proper deliberation takes place when Members with supporting or opposing arguments are able to participate in the debate. New rules are proposed to ensure that Members have equal opportunity to participate in privilege motion debates by establishing time limits for speaking. The mover of the motion will be entitled to speak for up to an hour and other members for a maximum of 45 minutes. This rule will prevent one or a few Members from monopolizing the time of debate and will ensure ample opportunity for the presentation of different arguments.

Your committee believes that the changes to the Rules for questions of privilege will help Members make informed decisions on questions of privilege because they will have the details of the case and equal access to any ensuing debate.

BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Routine Business and Daily Order of Business

The Assembly follows a regular daily routine that is set out in the Rules. The regular routine may be altered in certain circumstances by unique proceedings authorized elsewhere by the Rules. An example of such a proceeding is the rule for the reinstatement of a public bill. The rule sets which sitting day and when on the agenda a motion to this effect may be moved. Your committee proposes a small change to make the rule for the regular routine flexible enough to accommodate special proceedings.

Friday Order of Business

This new rule will codify the practice that the order of business on Friday is the same as Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

Re-entry in Debate When Business is Interrupted
When a proceeding is interrupted for a recess or adjournment of the Assembly the Member who had the floor is entitled to re-enter the debate when that item is next called. In these circumstances the Member must re-enter the debate immediately when it is resumed or else forfeit the right to continue in the debate on the original question. This practice is not generally understood by Members. Your committee believes the Assembly would be well served by putting this long-standing practice into the written rules.

PETITIONS

The rule for oral presentation of petitions requires an update to reflect practice and to clarify some misunderstandings. The filing of multiple petitions at the Table has always been possible, but Members are restricted from the oral presentation of more than one petition. This distinction is made clear in the change proposed to the rule. The rule also codifies the practice that a Member may read the prayer, present a general explanation of the petition and note the location of petitioners. Your committee also reviewed the inclusion of illustrations and logos in petitions and has concluded that partisan graphics should be prohibited. The proposed rule includes this new restriction.

A petition is formally "read and received" the sitting day after it is presented, unless it is out of order. When a petition is presented on the Completion Day (last day) of the parliamentary calendar it normally cannot be read and received because the next sitting is the prorogation of the session. Consequently the petition is not included as part of the sessional record and returned to the Member. To avoid this situation your committee proposes a change to the rule to prevent petitions from being filed or presented on the last day of the parliamentary calendar.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS

This rule will clarify the practice that the Speaker will decide who to recognize, when more than one Member stands to be recognized during Statement by Members.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Ministerial Statements have been a part of proceedings for many decades but not part of the rules. The Assembly does have rules for Private Members Statements. Instead, procedure for Ministerial Statements is based on long standing practice that has been modified from time to time by Speaker's rulings. Your committee proposes the established practice should be captured in the Rules.

Your committee recommends that the rules for Ministerial Statements should include the following: a five-minute limit for both the Minister and respondent(s); that the content is restricted to a new policy, program or government direction which has not been previously announced in the Assembly and that the statement must be made at its earliest opportunity; and, that recognized caucuses in opposition to the government have an automatic right of reply.

QUESTION PERIOD

Decision to Decline a Question must be on the Record
A Minister may decline to answer a question, but the Speaker has required that this must be done on the record. Your committee proposes that this requirement should be incorporated into the existing rule for clarity.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Reference to Committees Prohibited
The Speaker has ruled that written questions may not be deflected to a committee. Your committee proposes that written question rules include this prohibition.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Since the last rules revision, there have been questions regarding the timing of filing documents with the Clerk in order to meet the requirements of the Rules and Statutes. The number and types of documents being tabled have also increased.

The changes to the rule deal with both issues by clarifying the rule, as well as specifically addressing the new parliamentary calendar. The changes reflect current practices and reality.

Your committee also recommends that the rule specifically states that the document or report to be tabled must be deposited at the Table with the Clerk on any sitting day. The change will clarify that the Assembly must be sitting in order for the document to be deposited at the Table.

The practice of the Assembly is that only documents that must be tabled in accordance with any Act or Order of the Assembly form part of the sessional record. Sometimes it is difficult to ascertain if a document must be tabled. The new rule proposes that documents that must be tabled also will include a letter that cites the authority under which it is tabled.

The rules allow the tabling of documents outside of the regular sittings periods of the Assembly. When the Assembly is in the midst of a sitting period, the practice is to accept documents only at the Table. It is not permissible to table documents on days the Assembly does not sit, such as Fridays or during sessional breaks such as the Easter week. To avoid confusion your committee proposes a change to the rule to better define the tabling requirements.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' DAY DEBATES

Priority Requirement for Private Member Public Bills
This rule will clarify the requirements for designating private member public bills for priority consideration on Private Members' Day. A bill must have been introduced and be standing on the order paper under Private Members' Public Bills and Orders on the day on which it is designated a priority item.

Rotation When Business Pre-empted
Your committee proposes a revision to the Rules to simplify the rotation of Private Members' Day business. In the past there has been confusion about the rotation when the Assembly sat but Private Members' Day business was pre-empted. Your committee proposes that if Private Members' Day is pre-empted for any reason the rotation will not take place and will be applied the following week.

Seventy-five Minute Debate
The Seventy-five Minute Debate rule was adopted in 1981 to "add new life to Private Members' Day." The Special Committee on Rules and Procedures reported to the Assembly that the Seventy-five Minute Debate rule should not be subject to the normal rules of anticipation and not restricted by the same question rule. For unknown reasons, that provision was missed from the text of the rule even though it has been part of the Assembly's practice. Your committee proposes that this omission be corrected and the Seventy-five Minute Debate rule revised to read as originally intended.

PRIORITY OF DEBATE

The Priority of Debate motion is one of two methods available to Members to raise a matter of urgent importance for debate. The method more commonly used is to request the unanimous consent of the Assembly to move a motion of "urgent and pressing necessity." The other method is to seek the consent of the Speaker to move a motion of "urgent public importance." These motions are known colloquially as "emergency debates," and take priority over the regular business on the agenda if allowed to proceed.

The method to raise a Priority of Debate question is very similar to how questions of privilege are initiated, are considered by the Speaker, debated, and ultimately decided by the Assembly.
One difference is that the Member is required to submit the notice to the Clerk. Your committee proposes that notice be delivered directly to the Speaker. It is the Speaker who considers the cases, so the step of providing notice to the Clerk is unnecessary.

Your committee also proposes that the recommendations for time limits on speeches for questions of privilege also apply to Priority of Debate motions. The same rationale applies.

Historically the two processes paralleled one another, so these two changes will make the Priority of Debate rules consistent with the procedures for raising and considering questions of privilege.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The Speaker is the representative and spokesperson for the Legislative Assembly in its relations with the Crown. Messages, correspondence and documents addressed to the Assembly are communicated to it through the Speaker. For instance, the Speaker announces to the Assembly the Message of the Lieutenant Governor for budgetary estimates. Contact from the Assembly to the Crown is by a message, adopted in the form of a motion, known as an "Address." In Saskatchewan, the Address takes the traditional form "That an Humble Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor ..." When an Address is adopted, it is the responsibility of the Speaker to transmit it to the Crown (normally the Lieutenant Governor) on behalf of the Assembly. For example, in 2012, the Assembly adopted a congratulatory Address to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. This Address was transmitted by the Speaker to Her Majesty on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.

The Address in Reply is the response of the Legislative Assembly to the Speech from the Throne. After the motion is adopted, it is "engrossed" (transcribed on parchment) and has been presented to the Lieutenant Governor by members of Executive Council. In other jurisdictions, notably the House of Commons of Canada, the Speaker presents the Address in Reply to the Crown's representative. Your committee proposes that the engrossed Address in Reply be presented to the Lieutenant Governor by the Speaker rather than by the members of Executive Council. This change will bring the treatment of the Address in Reply in line with other Addresses.

ESTIMATES AND BUDGET DEBATE

When the annual budgetary Estimates are tabled in the Assembly, it is done on Orders of the Day by the presentation of a Message from the Lieutenant Governor. The Message and tabling of Estimates takes priority over other business. The presentation of Supplementary and Further Estimates is done in exactly the same way although this is not reflected in the Rules. Your committee proposes that all the types of estimates be listed in the rule. This change will help provide greater consistency.

When a motion is proposed to the Assembly, the mover generally has an option to close debate. There are some exceptions to this basic rule and, in some instances, procedural restrictions. One of those restrictions is that debate can be closed only on the original motion and not when an amendment is under consideration. The exception is the Budget Motion.

Under the Budget Debate rules, the mover of the Budget Motion may close debate on both the motion and any amendment under consideration. The rule provides the mover of the motion twenty minutes to close debate at the end of the fifth and last day of the Budget Debate. The rule does not address what happens when the debate is concluded sooner than the fifth day. In those situations, the practice has been to apply the rule as if it were the last day of debate. The Speaker has provided the mover of the Budget Motion with up to twenty minutes to close debate on both the motion and amendment. Your committee recommends that the rules be changed to reflect this practice. This change will eliminate doubt about how debate is closed if the Budget Debate does not take maximum time allowable under the rules.

Your committee also recommends that the series of rules applicable to the tabling of Estimates and Budget Debate be reorganized so that they flow step-by-step in accordance with the actual sequence of events. The change will make the two processes straightforward and easier to understand.

APPROPRIATION BILLS

Originally, the consideration and adoption of a financial resolution in committee was the necessary preliminary for bills that created a charge on public funds or imposed a tax. Over the course of Saskatchewan's legislative history, the procedural steps for "money" bills were streamlined, and today only Appropriation Bills continue to be founded on financial resolutions reported from a committee. This is because consideration of estimates and approval of Votes is multifaceted and entrenched in our committee system. Consequently, procedural steps required for the passage of Appropriation Bills differ considerably from other public bills.

The Rules describe in detail the procedures required for the passage of a regular public bill. This is not the case for Appropriation Bills. The passage of Appropriation Bills is partly based on long-standing, historical practices that are not described by the Rules. The components that do exist are in separate

sections of the rule book. Your committee proposes a new straightforward rule that includes all the parts of the process. The rule includes a step-by-step outline of the procedures required for the consideration and passage of Appropriation Bills. A better understanding of the procedures will be achieved by having the complete process in the rules.

PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR – REFINEMENT OF PROCEDURES

Definition of Budget Bills

When the parliamentary calendar was developed, it included provisions for the passage of public bills before the end of session. The passage of the bills had to meet a number of very specific conditions that were part of the balance struck between the competing interests of government and opposition. One of the conditions is that any bill tied to the budget must be identified as a "budget bill" in the Estimates. The Rules provided a basic definition of what constituted a budget bill. Your committee proposes that the definition be strengthened to include specific links to the Estimates. The proposed new rule requires that budget-related bills must be identified in the government's financial plan; that the purpose of each budget bill is explained in the plan, and that the budget provisions of the bills are linked to a specific subvote or allocation of a Vote. Your committee firmly believes this change will strengthen the parliamentary calendar.

Report of Remaining Specified Bills from Standing Committees

Your committee recommends a small clarification to the Rules to underline that bills reported from standing committees on the sitting day prior to Completion Day are not considered in a Committee of the Whole on Bills. Rather the bill is reported to the Assembly and, if agreed to, is immediately considered for third reading.

Conditions for Disposal of Remaining Estimates

To balance the requirement that Estimates must be passed by the end of session the rules for the parliamentary calendar set a number of conditions. The main condition is that debate on all estimates must be no less than 75 hours. The 75 hours is applicable to Estimates and Further Estimates. It does not apply to Supplementary Estimates because those are related to the previous year's Estimates and are reviewed post facto. The rule requires a change to make this clear.

ORDER AND DECORUM

Rules for Decorum in the Assembly

The technology for the use of mobile or cell phones has changed such that many phones are now used for many purposes. Your committee proposes that the rule be updated to reflect current practice. The rule will now permit Members to use their mobile or cell phones in the Assembly provided that the phones are operated silently. Members will not be allowed to use their phones to talk, to take pictures, or to act as pagers.

STRANGERS

Definition of Chamber Precincts

The rule refers to the "precinct of the Chamber" although this term is not defined. To add clarity to the rule, your committee proposes that the Chamber precincts be defined in the rule to include the floor, the public galleries, the Speaker's gallery and the press gallery.

Chamber Galleries

By ancient custom, the public was not normally admitted to the Chamber when parliament sat. The term "stranger" is the traditional way of referring to the presence of non-Members. Over the course of time the custom evolved to current day when restricting public access to galleries would be highly unusual. The Assembly, however, has retained the right to control its proceedings by authorizing the Speaker to order the withdrawal of persons who cause disorder. A Member may also move a motion to order for the withdrawal of strangers. Such a drastic measure should not be done frivolously or for tactical purposes. For this reason, your committee recommends that no more than one motion to withdraw strangers may be moved in a single sitting day. The proposed new Saskatchewan rule is patterned after Westminster.

Chamber Floor Seating for Former Members

The Rules of the Assembly are generally restrictive for those who may be seated on the floor of the Chamber behind the bar. The bar separates the seats of the Members from the chairs on the outside perimeter of the Chamber. These seats are made available to special guests and the public on special occasions such as the Throne Speech. One category of special guests is former Members of the Legislative Assembly and current Members of other parliaments. Your committee recommends that the list of special guests who may sit on the floor behind the bar be expanded so that the rule includes retired Members of the Canadian House of Commons and retired Members of the Senate of Canada.

RULES OF DEBATE

There have been several Speakers' rulings respecting the issue of documents cited or referred to by Ministers and others during debate or a proceeding. Your committee believes that the increasing use of tablets and other electronic devices by Ministers, as well as the increasing prevalence of electronic documents, needs to be addressed in the Rules.

Your committee proposes a new rule to codify practice that is the result of various Speakers' rulings on this topic. Essentially, paper and electronic documents are treated the same way. The new rule requires a Minister to table any document, whether paper or electronic, that is referred to during a proceeding or in response to a question or when requested to do so by another Member. It is important to note that the current practice of not requiring Ministers to table briefing notes remains unchanged.

The proposed new rule also specifically requires that where a document is in an electronic format, the Minister must table a printed copy of the electronic document that was used.

Protected Persons

The Assembly has traditionally protected public service employees, judges, courts and others from personal attack. Your committee recommends that the rule be modernized to include Officers of the Assembly and Legislative Assembly Service employees in the list. A small change to the rule will accomplish this.

Closing of Debate
The Rules allow the mover of the original question the option to close debate on that motion. This is known as a "reply." There are a number of restrictions to this basic rule, which are listed in the rule. One restriction that remains governed by practice is the prohibition against the proposal of an amendment when debate is being closed. Some jurisdictions include this seemingly obvious restriction in the text of their rules. For completeness, your committee proposes that the reply rule be updated to include this restriction.

DISORDER

If a Member wilfully and persistently disregards the Speaker's call for order, the only recourse is to "name" the offender. The penalty for being named is an automatic suspension for the remainder of the sitting day. It also comes with a $400 deduction from the Member's indemnity, which is imposed by a directive of the Board of Internal Economy. Speakers have asked for an option for an intermediate action that is less severe than naming. Your committee supports this proposition and recommends a rule to allow the Speaker to temporarily revoke a Member's access to participation in proceedings. In such a situation the Member would not be required to withdraw from the Chamber and would not be fined.

When a Member is named, the Rules provide an option for a Member to move a motion to increase the length of the suspension. The naming of a Member is a serious offence, so the decision to increase a suspension should not be taken lightly. Your committee believes the decision to move such a motion should be made by the House Leaders who are designated by their caucuses to provide leadership in the Chamber. Part of the duties of House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders is to raise and respond to questions of order, so this decision is in keeping with existing responsibilities. A rule change to this effect is recommended in this report.

Unlike the Chair of a committee of the whole (any Committee of the Whole on a Bill or Committee of Finance), the Chairs of standing committees may not report a Member who has refused to come to order. The Chair of a committee of the whole may do this on his or her own initiative. The rules require a clarification to distinguish the differences between the two types of committees in this regard. Your committee proposes a small housekeeping change to achieve this purpose.

AMENDMENTS

The object of an amendment may be either to modify a question by adding or removing words in such a way as to increase its acceptability or to present a different proposition as an alternative. The type of amendment is supposed to determine the nature of debate. If the amendment is intended only to modify the question by adding or deleting words, then the debate should be restricted to the desirability of the omission or the addition of the words. If the intent is to remove and substitute other words, then both the original and proposed words may be discussed concurrently. These differences have been largely ignored for the past 25 years here in Saskatchewan. Members have preferred to treat debate on amendments as being concurrent regardless of the type of amendment. For this reason, your committee proposes that the rules be changed to reflect what is, and has been for some time, the local practice. A new rule is proposed to state that debate on any amendment shall be considered to be concurrent so that debate can range over the content of both the motion and amendment.

An amendment to an amendment (a subamendment) is allowed by the Rules but rarely used. Part of the reason is that the content of subamendments and scope of debate is tightly restricted by parliamentary practice. Members have preferred to wait until an amendment is disposed of and move another amendment rather than a subamendment. Your committee recommends that the application of this little-used rule be limited to only a few select circumstances. The most common application of the subamendment has been during the debate on the Address in Reply and Budget Motion when there have been third parties represented in the Assembly. Your committee believes it is important to preserve the option to move a subamendment during these two major debates. The proposed new rule restricts the use of subamendments to the Address in Reply and Budget Motion. This change will streamline the rules, so they align better with actual practice.

Motions to Postpone Business

The Rules provide a variety of means to postpone the decision on a motion. Motions of this nature are moved in the course of debate on the questions which they seek to set aside. They are classified in parliamentary terms as "dilatory motions." The most common forms of dilatory motions are those to adjourn debate and to proceed to another item of business on the order paper. The application of dilatory motions can be complex, and for this reason they merit considerable discussion in the standard parliamentary texts. To make matters more complicated, the treatment and application of some forms of the motions have been modified or completely changed by the local practice. Some of the changes date back to 1969 but were not codified in the Rules until the last review in 2007. Your committee worked with those changes and proposes a number of adjustments in this report to further clarify local practice and to distinguish it from the practices of the House of Commons in Ottawa, which are reflected in the parliamentary texts. These changes should help to avoid surprises and difficulties when dealing with dilatory motions.

PUBLIC BILLS

Omnibus bills are being introduced in other Canadian jurisdictions. Omnibus legislation is a stand-alone legislative proposal that includes a collection of separate and distinct matters or various pieces of legislation in order to implement various and disparate policy initiatives. Over the last few years, the prevalence of omnibus bills has increased. The type of omnibus bill making news elsewhere in the country is not part of the legislative tradition in Saskatchewan. A new rule is proposed to be proactive and articulate Saskatchewan's legislative tradition.

The new rule codifies Saskatchewan's convention on omnibus bills. The rule consists of two parts. The first part provides a general definition and also sets out a general prohibition against omnibus bills. The second part spells out the conditions that must be met in order for a piece of legislation that might be considered to be an omnibus bill to be introduced in the Assembly. The second part of the rule outlines the "except as otherwise provided by the Rules" statement in part one. Essentially, exceptions to the prohibition include a series of amendments dealing with an inter-related topic involving one, single, broad policy and all of the amendments are of a similar nature. The new rule is drafted in order to continue to allow bills that are traditionally called "consequential amendments" in Saskatchewan.

Admissible Amendments at Second and Third Reading

The types of amendments that may be moved at second reading are not clearly understood. The Assembly has always followed the practice of permitting the traditional forms of amendments for second reading of public bills. These are the hoist amendment, reasoned amendment or the referral of the subject matter of

the bill to a committee of the Assembly. Because of recent misunderstanding about second reading amendments, your committee proposes that these three types of amendment be incorporated in the Rules. The proposed rule also makes it clear that the adoption of any of these amendments would result in the rejection of the bill and the removal of the bill from the order paper.

The amendments that are admissible at second reading of a public bill also apply at third reading. Your committee proposes that the Rules also reflect this long-standing practice.

REINSTATEMENT OF PUBLIC BILLS

Reinstatement to Precede Consideration of Any Special Order

In 2007, the Assembly adopted rules to permit a government public bill from the previous session to be reinstated within five days after the start of a new session. The intention was that the motion to reinstate a bill would be considered on Orders of the Day in advance of any other business. This is in fact how it worked in practice. The reinstatement motions have been moved ahead of consideration of the Address in Reply. This puts the two rules at odds because the Special Orders are meant to take priority over all other business. Your committee proposes that this be rectified by making an allowance in the Rules for a reinstatement of bills.

PRIVATE BILLS

Process

The process for private bills is unique as it requires: filing material with the Clerk; publication of a Notice of Intention for a Private Bill; and a proposed draft of legislative change or new legislation, as the case may require. Although the current rule was revised when the parliamentary calendar was first established, the former system of proposing private bills in the spring sitting was retained despite the new calendar. The current rule's time frames are very tight and do not always allow for adequate consideration of private legislation. Therefore, your committee proposes a new rule that will make private bills parallel the public bill process. In the proposed rule, private bills are introduced in the fall period of the calendar and then may be passed in the spring period of the calendar. The current practice of allowing private bills to be introduced in the spring period will be discontinued. The filing deadlines for materials and the petition are increased slightly in order to allow adequate time to meet the requirements of the private bill process.

Printing Costs

Your committee recommends that the rule respecting remitting the cost of printing a private bill to the association or entity proposing the legislation be clarified. In certain situations, the Standing Committee on Private Bills must pass a motion respecting how to deal with the cost of printing a private bill before the cost may be remitted to the association or entity. The proposed change will provide a solid basis for the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel to deal with entities and associations who propose private legislation that is not proceeded with or that is withdrawn or rejected.

Publication of the Rules Respecting Private Bills

Your committee recommends that the Rules be revised to allow the Clerk to publish the pertinent rules respecting private bills in the Saskatchewan Gazette "as necessary." The change will allow for the timely publishing of the rules respecting private bills rather than requiring them to be published monthly. This change is complementary to the rule change that limits the introduction of private bills to the fall period of the parliamentary calendar.

Reporting
A further proposal is that the change to the rule dealing with reporting private bills is made to complement the recommended change made to the rule dealing with the filing petitions for private bills. The recommend rule change requires that any private bill that has been committed to the Standing Committee on Private Bills must be reported to the Assembly before Completion Day. Your committee proposes this change to ensure that private bills that have been committed to the Standing Committee on Private Bills will follow the same process as public bills with respect to the requirement that they also be reported back to the Assembly before Completion Day.

STANDING COMMITTEES

General Provisions
In standing committees, it is the practice that only permanent standing committee members may raise a point of order. To clarify this practice, your committee recommends a change in the Rules to codify that non-permanent and additional Members who participate in debate in standing committees cannot raise a point of order.

The Rules provide that Members on a standing committee may have a substitution. However when the Chair or Deputy Chair of a committee is unable to attend a meeting, it was not clearly understood that the committee must designate another Member to chair the meeting. Your committee proposes a small housekeeping change to achieve this purpose.

House Committees
As with all legislative proposals, legislation that deals with Officers of the Assembly must be considered by one of the committees of the Assembly. The existing rule has not been updated to take into account the unique situations that Officers' legislation may present in the new committee structure. Your committee proposes that the rule clarify to which committee a particular legislative proposal should be sent for consideration.

Generally, Officers' legislation is referred to the Standing Committee on House Services, as most of the legislation deals with the administration of the particular Office. However, when legislation seeks to create a new Office or deals with a matter related to the role of an Officer, the legislation is more properly and should be referred to one of the four policy field committees of the Assembly. The only exception to this general principle is legislation related to the Provincial Auditor. Pursuant to the Rules, any bill related to the Provincial Auditor shall be committed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The exception for the Provincial Auditor is not changed.

Scrutiny Committees
The terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Private Bills permits it to consider matters relating to petitions for private bills and examining private entities requesting or amending a private bill. Your committee proposes that the Standing Committee on Private Bills be changed to a scrutiny committee as this change more aptly reflects the mandate of this committee.

Provisional rule for the 27th Legislature
On March 4, 2013, the Assembly adopted a provisional order for the duration of the 27th Legislature. This rule changed the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The Rules detail that the membership of standing committees should be proportional to the party membership in the Assembly and that standing committees shall consist of seven Members. This provisional order was adopted to provide

the Standing Committee on Public Accounts a membership of eight Members. The additional Member was an opposition Member.

OFFICIALS OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Rules set out the duties of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel in relation to all bills that are introduced, amended and/or passed by the Assembly as well as the preparation of the annual volume of Statutes of bills.

Your committee recommends that the chronological order of the duties of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel be rearranged. This change will better reflect the logical oversight process in the introduction and passage of government public bills, private bills, private members' public bills, all amendments to bills and culminating in the preparation of the annual volume of Statutes.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

That revisions to *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, as presented by this report, be adopted and brought into force effective November 12, 2013;

And further,

That upon adoption of this motion, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall ensure *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* as revised are printed and re-published in English and French.

RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

GENERAL

Procedure in unprovided cases

1(1) In all cases not specified in these Rules or by sessional orders, the usages, forms, customs and precedents of the House of Commons of Canada and other parliaments in the Commonwealth shall be followed so far as they may be applicable to the Assembly.

Speaker's discretion to alter Rules and practices

1(2) The Speaker may alter the application of any Rule or practice of the Assembly in order to permit the full participation in the proceedings of the Assembly of any Member with a disability.

Attendance required

2 Every Member is bound to attend the sittings of the Assembly, unless:

(a) leave of absence has been authorized by Order of the Assembly; or

(b) occupied with the business of the Member's constituency, the Assembly, the Government of Saskatchewan, or otherwise prescribed by a directive of the Board of Internal Economy.

SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Parliamentary calendar

3(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly or its Rules, sitting days shall be in accordance with a parliamentary calendar of two periods as defined by this Rule.

Fall period of calendar

3(2) Each session of a Legislature shall commence the first sitting day of the fall period as follows:

Commencement of session

(a) from the fourth Wednesday of October for 25 sitting days;

(b) except when the fourth Wednesday of October coincides with the date of a general election as prescribed by *The Local Government Election Act,* then from the following Thursday in October for 25 sitting days.

Spring period of calendar

3(3) Each session of a Legislature shall reconvene for a spring period of 40 sitting days, concluding on the Thursday before Victoria Day as follows:

Completion Day of session

(a) The Thursday before Victoria Day shall constitute the Completion Day of the spring period of sittings, provided there are no fewer than 28 sitting days between the proposal of the Budget Motion, moved pursuant to Rule 30, and the Thursday before Victoria Day; or

(b) If the Budget Motion is moved at any time within the interval of 29 sitting days prior to the Thursday before Victoria Day, the Completion Day shall be postponed to the 29th sitting day after the Budget Motion is moved.

Parliamentary calendar to be published

3(4) The Clerk of the Assembly shall publish a parliamentary calendar that shows the days on which the Assembly shall meet, in accordance with *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.*

First session of a Legislature

4(1) Sittings of the first session of a Legislature shall be in accordance with this Rule.

Convening of first session

4(2) The first session of a Legislature may be convened on a day other than the day prescribed by the parliamentary calendar.

Calendar may be observed in first session

4(3) The parliamentary calendar shall be observed when the first sitting day of a Legislature coincides with the ordinary first day of the fall period.

Completion Day of first session

4(4) The Completion Day of the first session of a Legislature shall be the 29th sitting day after the Budget Motion is moved.

Disposal of certain business in first session

4(5) The Rules of the parliamentary calendar for the disposal of specified bills and estimates shall apply to the disposal of government business in the first session of a Legislature, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly or its Rules.

Sittings outside calendar periods

5 If the Assembly is convened for a separate and distinct sitting at any time outside the sitting periods prescribed by the parliamentary calendar, other than the first sitting of a Legislature, the Rules that govern the conduct of business within the parliamentary calendar periods shall not apply.

Sittings: ordinary time of

6(1) The ordinary times for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sittings of the Assembly shall be as follows:

Monday: 1:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., with a recess between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., with a recess between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sittings: exception when calendar commences on Thursday

6(2) When the fall period of the parliamentary calendar commences on a Thursday, as specified in Rule 3(2)(b), the times for daily meeting and adjournment times for the first and second sitting days shall be as follows:

Thursday: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Designated days

6(3) The Assembly shall not meet on the following designated days: New Year's Day, Family Day, Good Friday, the week after Easter, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Saskatchewan Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Sittings affected by Remembrance Day

6(4) When Remembrance Day is on a:

(a) Sunday, the Assembly shall not sit on the following Monday;
(b) Tuesday, the Assembly shall not sit the preceding Monday; or
(c) Wednesday, the Assembly shall not sit the following Thursday.

Hours of sitting preceding designated holidays

6(5) The Assembly shall meet at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m. on any meeting day that precedes a day designated by this Rule.

Adjournment in Committees of the Whole Assembly

6(6) Committees of the Whole Assembly shall follow the Assembly's recess and adjournment times.

Procedure at time of daily adjournment

6(7) At the time of daily adjournment, except as otherwise specified in the Rules or ordered by the Assembly, the proceedings on any business under consideration shall be interrupted, and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put, provided that all business not disposed of at the termination of the sitting shall remain on the Order Paper at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

Adjournment in Committees of the Whole

6(8) If the Assembly is in Committees of the Whole Assembly at the ordinary time of daily adjournment, except as otherwise specified in the Rules or ordered by the Assembly, the committee shall rise, and the Chair of the committee shall report the committee's progress to the Assembly. At the conclusion of the committee's progress report, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.

PUBLICATION AND BROADCAST OF PROCEEDINGS

Publication of proceedings

7(1) The official record of the proceedings of the Assembly and its committees shall consist of the following documents:

(a) *Journals*,
(b) *Votes and Proceedings*,
(c) *Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day* (Order Paper),
(d) bills introduced in the Assembly,
(e) *Debates and Proceedings* (Hansard),
(f) the minutes, verbatim and reports of standing and special committees.

Authority to publish documents

7(2) The official documents of the Assembly and its committees shall be printed and published under the authority of the Speaker.

Authority to broadcast proceedings

8(1) The proceedings of the Assembly and its committees shall be broadcast on television and the Internet, unless otherwise specified in the Rules or by Order. The television and Internet broadcast of the proceedings shall be under the authority of the Speaker.

Broadcast subject to guidelines

8(2) The production, distribution and reproduction of the television and Internet transmission of the Assembly and committee proceedings shall be subject to guidelines contained in the appendix to *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

RECESS OF PROCEEDINGS

Assembly may recess

9(1) A motion that the Assembly recess to a certain time may be moved without notice by the Government House Leader at any time during Government Orders when a question is not under debate.

Recess motion not debatable

9(2) The motion shall indicate the purpose of the recess and shall be decided without debate.

Assembly to return 15 minutes prior to adjournment

9(3) The period of recess must conclude at least 15 minutes before the ordinary time of adjournment.

Intermediate proceeding shall take place

9(4) If such a motion is decided in the negative, no second motion to the same effect shall be made until after some intermediate proceeding has taken place.

Bells to summon Members back to Assembly

9(5) The Speaker shall sound the bells five minutes before the expiry of a recess to summon Members back to the Assembly.

Committee reports permitted

9(6) Upon resumption of proceedings after a recess, the Speaker shall recognize any Member who has risen to make a report from a policy field committee with respect to estimates or bills. If there are no reports, the Speaker will cause the next order of the day to be called.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Adjournment motions

10 A motion to adjourn the Assembly shall always be in order, but no second motion to the same effect shall be made until after some intermediate proceeding has taken place.

QUORUM

Quorum

11(1) The presence of at least 15 Members of the Assembly, including the Speaker, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Assembly for the exercise of its powers.

Speaker to adjourn if quorum not present

11(2) If at the time of meeting there is not a quorum, the Speaker may take the chair and adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting day.

Procedure upon lack of quorum

11(3) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the Assembly for lack of a quorum, the time of the adjournment and the names of the Members then present shall be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

PRIVILEGE

Privilege

12(1) Any Member may raise a matter of privilege by providing notice to the Speaker at least two hours prior to the regular daily opening of the Assembly. The Member shall provide to the Speaker in writing the following:

(a) a letter signed by the Member, which outlines the case for a breach of privilege or contempt;
(b) details of the case, which includes any evidence that is available to support the case;
(c) a question of privilege motion, which the Member must be ready to propose:
    i. declaring that a contempt or breach of privilege has been committed, which includes a remedy for the problem; or
    ii. referring the matter to the Standing Committee on Privileges;
(d) a sufficient number of copies of the case for distribution pursuant to Rule 12(3).

Notice at earliest opportunity

12(2) Notice of a question of privilege is required to be submitted at the earliest opportunity after the contempt or breach of privilege is thought to have occurred.

Notice may be waived

12(3) Immediately upon receipt of such notice, the Speaker shall advise the government and opposition House Leaders, and any independent Members, of the case, and provide each with the written details and the proposed question of privilege motion.

Determination of *prima facie* case

12(4) The Speaker shall determine if a *prima facie* case of privilege has been established but, without unreasonable delay, may defer the decision to another sitting day. The Speaker shall advise the Assembly thereof by making a statement at the conclusion of Routine Proceedings and before Orders of the Day.

Prima facie case to be considered immediately

12(5) When a *prima facie* case of privilege has been established, the Member who raised the case shall move the question of privilege motion, and it shall be taken into consideration immediately.

Time limit on Speeches

12(6) Debate on a motion of privilege shall be subject to the following time limits for speeches :

(a) The mover of the motion shall speak for not more than one hour, and is permitted 15 minutes to close debate; and
(b) No other Member shall speak for more than 45 minutes.

Questions of privilege shall not be adjourned

12(7) No question of privilege shall be adjourned. Unless sooner concluded, debate shall end at ten minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment when the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Prayers

13 The Speaker shall read prayers every day at the sitting of the Assembly before any business is entered upon.

Precedence of business

14(1) All items standing on the *Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day* shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the Order Paper, provided that Government Orders may be called in such sequence as the government decides.

Routine business

14(2) The ordinary daily routine proceedings in the Assembly, unless otherwise specified by the Rules, shall be as follows:

Introduction of Guests
Presenting Petitions
Reading and Receiving Petitions
Statements by Members
Question Period
Ministerial Statements
Introduction of Bills
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

Daily order of business

14(3) The order of business for consideration of the Assembly day by day, after Routine Proceedings, unless otherwise specified by the Rules, shall be as follows:

(a) *Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday*

Written Questions
Motions for Returns
Responses to Petitions
Special Orders:
  (a) Address in Reply
  (b) Budget Debate
  (c) Appropriation Bills
Government Motions
Government Orders
Private Bills
Private Members' Motions
Private Members' Public Bills and Orders
Motions for Returns (Debatable)

(b) *Thursday*

Written Questions
Motions for Returns
Responses to Petitions
Special Orders:
  (a) Address in Reply
  (b) Budget Debate
  (c) Appropriation Bills
Private Bills
Seventy-five Minute Debate
Private Members' Motions
Private Members' Public Bills and Orders
Motions for Returns (Debatable)
Government Motions
Government Orders

Friday order of business

(c) When the Assembly sits on a Friday, pursuant to Rule 6(2), the order of business shall be the same as that for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Government Orders

14(4) Order of precedence under Government Orders shall be as follows:

Third Readings
Adjourned Debates
Reports from Committee of Finance or of the Whole Assembly or of any committee
Committee of Finance
Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills
  (a) bills reported from any committee
  (b) bills referred directly
Second Readings

Private Members' Public Bills and Orders

14(5) Order of precedence under Private Members' Public Bills and Orders and Private Bills shall be as follows:

Third Readings
Adjourned Debates
Reports from Committees of the Whole Assembly or of any committee
Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills
(a) bills reported from any committee
(b) bills referred directly
Second Readings

Orders not taken up

15(1) Orders not called shall retain their precedence on the Order Paper. An Order that is called and not taken up shall be withdrawn but may be allowed to stand and retain its precedence on the Order Paper upon the request of any Member.

Withdrawal of items of business

15(2) A Member may withdraw an item of business on the Order Paper that is in the Member's own name when it is called, provided the business is not in the possession of the Assembly. Likewise, any Minister of the Crown may withdraw a government bill or government motion that is not in the possession of the Assembly.

Orders dropped

15(3) Items of business that have been moved and are in the possession of the Assembly may be withdrawn only by unanimous consent upon the request of the Member who moved the motion or, in the case of a Government Order, by any Minister.

Orders postponed

15(4) Whenever business before the Assembly is interrupted pursuant to a Rule or Order, unless otherwise provided, the proceeding then under consideration shall be set down on the Order Paper at the stage where the proceeding's progress was interrupted.

Re-entry in debate when business is interrupted

15(5) A Member who is interrupted in debate by the Speaker, in accordance with the Rules for the ordinary times of Sittings, shall be allowed to continue when debate on the motion is resumed but must do so immediately. A Member who does not answer the call when the debate is resumed is precluded from continuing in the debate on that question.

Items of business must be moved prior to daily adjournment

15(6) Items on the Order Paper that are not in the possession of the Assembly, when taken up, are required to be moved before the ordinary time of daily adjournment. The Speaker shall interrupt proceedings immediately before the time of adjournment and require that the motion be moved.

Collective responsibility of Cabinet

15(7) Any item of business standing in the name of a Minister of the Crown may be moved by any other Minister of the Crown in accordance with the conventions which permits Ministers to act for each other on the grounds of the collective nature of the government.

Authority of Government House Leader

15(8) This Rule shall apply to the Government House Leader when the Member is not a Minister of the Crown but is a Member of Executive Council.

PETITIONS

Filing of petitions

16(1) A petition to the Assembly may be submitted by a Member at any time during the sitting of the Assembly by filing it at the Table. More than one petition may be filed during a sitting.

Oral presentation

16(2) Any Member desiring to present a petition from his or her place in the Assembly may do so during Routine Proceedings at the period designated Presenting Petitions.

No debate permitted

16(3) The period for Presenting Petitions is subject to the following conditions:

(a) The period is not to exceed one hour.
(b) No debate on any matter on or in relation to the petitions is permitted.
(c) A Member will be recognized only once to present a petition.
(d) No more than one petition on a subject may be presented during the period.
(e) The Member may read the prayer, provide a general explanation of the subject matter and location of the petitioners.

Form of petition

16(4) The form and content of every petition shall:

(a) be addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan, a Minister of the Crown or a Member of the Assembly;
(b) contain a clear, proper and respectful prayer in reference to matters within the legislative competence of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan or the jurisdiction of the Government of Saskatchewan;
(c) be proper for the prayer to call for the expenditure of public funds;
(d) be written, typewritten or printed on paper of usual size;
(e) be free of alterations and interlineations in its text;
(f) have its subject matter and prayer indicated on every sheet if it consists of more than one sheet of signatures and addresses;
(g) contain only original signatures and addresses written directly onto the petition and not pasted thereon or otherwise transferred to it;
(h) contain at least three signatures from persons other than Members of the Legislative Assembly who are residents of the Province of Saskatchewan and, where the signatories have a fixed place of residence, their addresses; and
(i) not contain partisan graphics.

Responsibility for content

16(5) Members who present or file a petition shall be answerable that they do not contain impertinent or improper matter.

Endorsement of petitions

16(6) Every Member presenting a petition shall endorse his or her name thereon.

Reading and receiving

16(7) The Clerk shall examine the form and content of all petitions. On the sitting day following the presentation or filing of a petition, the Clerk shall report on the same if it is irregular or contains a matter in breach of the privileges of the Assembly. If no such report be made, the petition shall then be deemed to be permitted to be read and received.

Recording of petitions

16(8) Petitions that are read and received shall be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings* as a sessional paper.

No petitions on Completion Day

16(9) Petitions shall not be presented or filed on Completion Day of the parliamentary calendar.

Government may respond to petition

17(1) The government may provide a written response to any petition that has been read and received. A response to a petition may be made on any sitting day during the session that the petition is read and received.

Response to be tabled and recorded in *Votes and Proceedings*

17(2) Responses to petitions shall be laid on the Table at the designated time after Routine Proceedings. The response shall be recorded as part of the sessional record in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Length of Statements by Members period

18(1) The time allotted for Statements by Members shall be limited to 10 minutes.

Time limit on Members' statements

18(2) A Member may be recognized to make a statement for not more than 90 seconds.

Subject matter of Members' statements

18(3) Members may make statements about any subject of interest or concern.

Members' statements not debatable

18(4) Statements are not debatable and are not responded to by any other Member.

Remarks by Ministers restricted

18(5) A Minister of the Crown may not use the time allotted for Statements by Members to remark on matters relating to the Minister's area of ministerial responsibility.

Order of recognition

18(6) The Speaker shall determine which Members are recognized.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Statements by Ministers

19(1) A Minister of the Crown may be recognized to make a statement for not more than five minutes.

Subject matter of statements

19(2) A Ministerial statement shall be restricted to a new policy, program or government direction to matters within its administrative competence.

Restriction

19(3) Ministerial Statements shall not comment on matters previously announced in the Assembly and must be made at the earliest opportunity.

Responses

19(4) One representative from each recognized caucus shall be permitted a response of an equivalent period of time used to make the Ministerial Statement.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period

20(1) Question Period shall begin immediately after the conclusion of the period Statements by Members and shall be limited to 25 minutes.

Scope of questions

20(2) Questions relating to any matter within the administrative competence of the government or on matters related to individual ministerial responsibility may be asked of a Minister of the Crown. Questions on issues not officially connected with the government, of a private nature, related to Board of Internal Economy, caucus, party or political responsibilities are prohibited.

Scope of responses

20(3) Responses shall be relevant to the question, but a Minister of the Crown may decline to answer or may take notice of a question. A Minister of the Crown shall advise the Assembly when the decision is to decline to answer. Questions taken as notice may be answered at a subsequent Question Period.

No points of order during Question Period

20(4) The rules of debate shall apply to Question Period except that the Speaker shall not entertain points of order during Question Period. Points of order may be raised later on Orders of the Day.

Responses by Government House Leader

20(5) When the Government House Leader is a Member of Executive Council, but not a Minister of the Crown, the Government House Leader may be permitted to answer questions pursuant to Rule 20(2).

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions

21(1) Written questions seeking detailed information from the government or a Minister of the Crown may be placed on the Order Paper.

Notice requirements for written questions

21(2) Notice of five sitting days shall be given for placing a written question on the Order Paper. Such notice shall be laid on the Table and printed in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Unprovided cases

21(3) The rules that govern the nature of questions allowed to be asked during Question Period shall apply to written questions.

Scope of written questions

21(4) A written question may seek information on the same subject for multiple years and from more than one government ministry, agency or Crown corporation. A written question may not ask for the return of a document.

Reference to committees prohibited

21(5) A response may not redirect the question to any committee.

Procedure when written question is called

21(6) On the sitting day when a written question is required to be answered, the government shall either table the response with the Clerk or convert the question as follows:

(a) to an Order for Return if, in the opinion of the government, the response requires more time to prepare or if the answer should be in the form of a return; or

(b) to a Notice of Motion for Return (Debatable) if it is the intention of the government to amend the wording of the question or to debate the matter.

Publication of responses

21(7) When a response to a written question is tabled, the Clerk shall cause the answer to be published in the *Votes and Proceedings* and shall provide a copy of the response to the Member who asked the question. The Clerk is authorized to convert the response into a return if the answer is too lengthy for publication.

Question made Order for Return

21(8) When a written question is converted by the government to an Order for Return, it shall be deemed an Order of the Assembly and entered to that effect in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Procedure on conversion of written questions

21(9) When a written question is converted by the government to a Notice of Motion for Return (Debatable), the Clerk shall cause the question to be put in the form of a motion and to be transferred to the proper place on the Order Paper under the name of the Member who submitted the question. The conversion shall be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

RETURNS

Returns

22(1) A Motion for a Return seeking a document or detailed information of a lengthy nature from the government generally or, more specifically, from a Minister of the Crown, may be placed on the Order Paper.

Notice requirements for returns

22(2) Notice of two sitting days shall be given for placing a Motion for Return on the Order Paper. Such notice shall be laid on the Table and printed in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Procedure when motion for return is called

22(3) On the sitting day when a Motion for Return is required to be called, the government shall have an option to:

(a) agree to table the return, and in so doing the motion shall be deemed an Order of the Assembly and the same shall be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings*; or

(b) transfer the notice to the proper place on the Order Paper under the category Notice of Motions for Returns (Debatable) so that the motion may be debated.

Tabling of return

22(4) An Order of the Assembly for a return must be brought down within 180 calendar days. A return brought down shall be tabled or, if the session has adjourned or prorogued, the return shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly. Once tabled or filed, a return becomes a sessional paper and shall be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings* at the earliest opportunity.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Documents tabled

23(1) Any return, report or other paper to be laid before the Assembly in accordance with any Act of the Legislature or in pursuance of any Order or Rule of the Assembly may be deposited at the Table with the Clerk on any sitting day. The return, report or other paper must be accompanied by a letter from the Member tabling the return, report or other paper that cites the authority pursuant to which the return, report or other paper is being tabled.

Tabling documents outside of Assembly sitting periods

23(2) On a day that is outside the period of sittings as defined by the Rules, any return, report or other paper to be laid before the Legislature or pursuant to any Order or Rule of the Assembly may be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly and must be accompanied by a letter addressed to the Clerk that requests that the return, report or other paper be tabled. The letter must also cite the authority pursuant to which the return, report or other paper is being tabled and the date on which the return, report or other paper is to be tabled. The return, report or other paper shall be deemed for all purposes to have been presented to or laid before the Assembly.

Tabled documents recorded

23(3) A record of any such return, report or other paper so deposited shall be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings* of the same day.

Prorogation does not nullify

23(4) A prorogation of the Assembly shall not have the effect of nullifying an Order or address of the Assembly for papers, but all papers ordered at one session of the Assembly, if not complied with during the session, shall be brought down during the following session, without renewal of the Order.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' DAY DEBATES

Priority of business for Private Members' Business

24(1) The House Leaders of each recognized caucus may designate and rank in order of priority two items of business to be given precedence over any other items of business standing under Private Members' Motions or Private Members' Public Bills and Orders.

Items that may be considered for priority

24(2) The notice of items to receive priority may include any notice of Private Members' Motions.

Priority requirement for public bills

24(3) Private Members Public Bills are required to be on the Order Paper at the time of notice in order to be designated for priority consideration.

Rotation of priority items

24(4) Any business designated and ranked for priority consideration under this Rule shall be taken up in rotation, with the first choice of business to alternate each week between government and opposition. If no items from one or both sides of the Assembly are designated for priority consideration, the rotation between government and opposition shall take place using the order in which items would otherwise regularly stand on the Order Paper.

Notice requirements

24(5) Notice of priority items of business designated under this Rule is to be provided in writing and tabled no later than 2:30 p.m. each Tuesday. When the Assembly does not sit on a Tuesday, the terms of this Rule shall be applied on the preceding sitting day.

Special Orders have priority

24(6) No priority item of business shall take precedence over any Special Order on the Order Paper.

Ranking of competing priority items

24(7) When there are more than two items of priority designated from one side of the Assembly, the Speaker shall determine the ranking of items of business.

Independent Members' priority items

24(8) An independent Member may request that the Speaker designate an item of business in that Member's name for priority consideration. The request shall be made in accordance with the notice provisions of this Rule.

Order Paper notation

24(9) Items designated and ranked for priority consideration under this Rule shall be indicated on the Order Paper.

Rotation when business pre-empted

24(10) When Private Members' Business is pre-empted the rotation shall not take place.

Seventy-five Minute Debate

25(1) A motion for a Seventy-five Minute Debate may be moved every Thursday after Private Bills, with the topic of debate to be chosen alternately between the government and opposition each week.

Application of the normal rules of anticipation and the same question

25(2) A motion for a Seventy-five Minute Debate shall not be subject to the normal rules of anticipation. The same question rule shall not be rigidly enforced to permit the topic of a Seventy-five Minute Debate to be similar to a topic that had been debated previously in the same Session, or a motion with a similar topic that is standing on the Order Paper.

Length of debate

25(3) The Seventy-five Minute Debate shall comprise of two periods as follows:

(a) a period of 65 minutes for debate, with the mover of the motion having a maximum of 15 minutes to speak and each subsequent Member having no more than 10 minutes in which to speak on the motion;

(b) followed by a 10-minute period to allow Members to ask questions and comment briefly on matters relevant to the contents of the speeches and allow Members who spoke in the debate to respond to questions raised.

Notice

25(4) Notice for the Seventy-five Minute Debate shall be tabled no later than 2:30 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday. When the Assembly does not sit on a Tuesday, the terms of this Rule shall be applied on the preceding sitting day. Notwithstanding anything else herein contained, notice of the debate may be waived with unanimous consent.

Adjournment

25(5) All of the foregoing proceedings shall not be adjourned and, unless sooner concluded, shall end at the expiration of the 75 minutes. The Speaker shall put the question on the motion for the Seventy-five Minute Debate if the allotted time for either period is not fully expended.

Private Members' Motions

26(1) Motions may be moved every Thursday under Private Members' Motions, with the first topic of debate to be chosen alternately between government and opposition each week. Consideration of Private Members' Motions is subject to the order of precedence established under the provisions of Rule 24.

Notice of Private Members' Motions

26(2) Notices for Private Members' Motions shall be tabled no later than 2:30 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the Thursday on which the motion is to be debated. Where more than one notice is tabled, government and opposition notices will be listed alternately on the Order Paper. When the Assembly does not sit on a Tuesday, the terms of this Rule shall be applied of the preceding sitting day.

Order of notices on Order Paper

26(3) The Speaker shall determine the order of notices to be listed on the Order Paper in the event that there are competing motions from one side of the House.

Notices not taken up

26(4) All notices not taken up on the following Thursday shall be withdrawn from the Order Paper, and adjourned items shall remain on the Order Paper until disposition.

Disposal of Private Members' Public Bills and Orders

27(1) Items of business on the Order Paper under each category of Private Members' Public Bills and Orders may not be adjourned more than three times, at which time Rule 27(3) applies.

Order Paper to indicate number of adjournments

27(2) The Order Paper shall indicate the number of times each order under Private Members' Public Bills and Orders has been adjourned.

Order Paper to indicate when item to be voted

27(3) After any order under Private Members' Public Bills and Orders has been adjourned a third time, a notation "To be Voted" shall be applied to that item on the Order Paper.

Speaker to put the question

27(4) When an order to be voted is called, it shall not be further adjourned, and the Speaker shall put every question necessary to dispose of the motion at the conclusion of the debate or, if not disposed of sooner, immediately prior to the ordinary time of daily adjournment.

PRIORITY OF DEBATE

Priority of debate motion

28(1) For the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, at the conclusion of Routine Proceedings and before Orders of the Day, any Member may, if authorized under the provisions of this Rule, move a Priority of Debate motion.

Two hour written notice required

28(2) A written request to seek authorization for a Priority of Debate motion pursuant to this Rule must be submitted to the Speaker at least two hours prior to the sitting of the Assembly. Such notice is to contain a statement explaining why the matter is of urgent public importance, as well as the text of the proposed Priority of Debate motion. The Priority of Debate motion must be strictly relevant to the matter of urgent public importance.

Notices recognized in order received

28(3) Notices for Priority of Debate shall be recognized in the order in which they were received by the Speaker.

Notification by Speaker

28(4) Immediately upon receipt of such notice, the Speaker shall immediately advise the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Third Party of the subject matter of the notice.

Speaker's determination of matter

28(5) The Speaker shall decide, without any debate, whether or not the matter is proper to be discussed. In determining whether a matter should have urgent consideration, the Speaker shall have regard to the extent to which it concerns the administrative responsibilities of the government or could come within the scope of ministerial action. The Speaker also shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the Assembly within reasonable time by other means.

Restrictions on motion

28(6) The right to move a Priority of Debate motion is subject to the following restrictions:

(a) the matter proposed for discussion must be of urgent public importance calling for immediate consideration;
(b) not more than one such motion can be debated at the same sitting;
(c) not more than one matter can be discussed on the same motion;
(d) the motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been debated in the same session;
(e) the motion must not raise a question of privilege;
(f) the discussion upon the motion must not raise any question which, according to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, can only be debated on a distinct motion under notice.

Rule 50 suspended

28(7) If the Speaker is satisfied the matter for Priority of Debate is proper to be discussed, the provisions of Rule 50 shall be suspended, and a motion without notice strictly relevant to the subject aforesaid shall be in order.

Time limit on speeches

28(8) Debate on a Priority of Debate motion shall be subject to the following time limits for speeches:

(a) the mover of the motion shall speak for not more than one hour, and is permitted 15 minutes to close debate;

(b) no other member shall speak for more than 45 minutes.

Ending of debate

28(9) No Priority of Debate motion shall be adjourned. Unless sooner concluded, debate shall end at ten minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment when the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

SPECIAL ORDERS - PRECEDENCE

Precedence of Special Orders

29 A Special Order of the Assembly shall have precedence over the other business on the Order Paper, until disposed of, as provided by:

(a) the Rules for the order of business of the Assembly; or

(b) an Order of the Assembly for the scheduling of business.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Throne Speech debate

30(1) The order for consideration of the Speech from the Throne, and for resumption of the debate on the Address in Reply, shall be considered a Special Order until disposed of, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.

Debate on Address in Reply limited

30(2) The proceedings on Orders of the Day for resuming debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, and on any amendments proposed to this motion, shall not exceed six sitting days.

Disposal of subamendment

30(3) On the fourth of the said days, if a subamendment is under consideration at 30 minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and put the question on that subamendment.

No further subamendments

30(4) The motion for an Address in Reply shall not be subject to subamendment on or after the fourth day of the said debate.

Disposal of amendment

30(5) On the fifth day of the said debate, if any amendment is under consideration at 30 minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall immediately put the question on any amendment before the Assembly.

No further amendments

30(6) The motion for an Address in Reply shall not be subject to amendment on or after the fifth day of the said debate.

Disposal of main motion

30(7) On the sixth of the said days, at 30 minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, unless the said debate is already concluded, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and put the question to dispose of the main motion.

Engrossment of Address in Reply

30(8) Immediately after the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the said address shall be engrossed and presented to the Lieutenant Governor by the Speaker.

ESTIMATES AND BUDGET DEBATE

Presentation of Message from Lieutenant Governor

31(1) When the Estimates, Supplementary Estimates, or Further Estimates are brought before the Assembly, the Message from the Lieutenant Governor shall be presented by a Minister of the Crown and read by the Speaker in the Assembly.

Tabling of Estimates has priority on Orders of the Day

31(2) The presentation of the Message from the Lieutenant Governor and the tabling of Estimates, Supplementary Estimates, or Further Estimates shall take place on Orders of the Day and shall be considered as a matter of priority.

Budget Motion to be moved after tabling of Estimates

31(3) The Budget Motion shall be moved by a Minister of the Crown upon the tabling of the Message and Estimates. The Budget Motion shall use the form "That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government."

Budget debate is a Special Order

31(4) The order for resumption of the debate on the Budget Motion, shall be considered a Special Order until disposed of, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.

Budget debate limited

31(5) The proceedings on Orders of the Day for resuming debate on the Budget Motion and on any amendments proposed to this motion shall not exceed five days.

Amendment on Budget Motion

31(6) Only one amendment and one subamendment may be made to the Budget Motion.

Closing debate

31(7) A reply shall be allowed to the mover of the Budget Motion to close the debate on the Budget Motion and any amendment. The mover of the Budget Motion shall in no case have more than 20 minutes in which to close the debate.

Question put

31(8) On the fifth day of the said debate, at 30 minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, unless the debate be previously concluded, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and, after allowing the mover of the Budget Motion to close the debate on the Budget Motion and any amendment, shall put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

Referral of estimates to committees

31(9) Upon the adoption of the Budget Motion, each of the estimates shall be deemed referred to a committee of the Assembly.

Allocation of estimates to committees

31(10) The allocation of estimates to the committees shall be that specified by the Rules or otherwise ordered by the Assembly.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Procedure for Appropriation Bill

32(1) The proceedings on an Appropriation Bill shall differ from the normal Rules for Public Bills in the following manner:

(a) consideration of financial resolutions in Committee of Finance for an appropriation are necessary preliminaries to the consideration of any Appropriation Bill;
(b) financial resolutions reported from the Committee of Finance for an appropriation shall be read a first and second time;
(c) First and Second reading of the resolutions shall be combined into one reading and decided without debate;
(d) Introduction and First reading of an Appropriation Bill shall be moved without notice upon the adoption of First and Second reading of the resolutions;
(e) Second and Third reading of an Appropriation Bill shall be combined into one reading.

Combined second and third reading of Appropriation Bill

32(2) The motion for second and third reading of an Appropriation Bill shall be considered a Special Order until disposed of, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.

Resuming debate on Appropriation Bill

32(3) The proceedings on Orders of the Day for resuming debate on the motion "That the Appropriation Bill be now read the second and third time," and on any amendments proposed, shall not exceed one day.

Exemption on day prior to Completion Day

32(4) Rule 32(3) does not apply when an Appropriation Bill is introduced on the day prior to the Completion Day.

Putting question on Appropriation Bill

32(5) On the said day, at 30 minutes before the normal recess or adjournment, unless the debate be previously concluded, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and, after allowing the mover of the motion to exercise his or her right to close the debate, shall put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

Closing debate on Appropriation Bill

32(6) The mover of the motion for second and third reading of the Appropriation Bill shall not have more than 20 minutes in which to close that debate.

PASSAGE OF REMAINING BILLS

Passage of remaining business a matter of priority

33(1) On the day prior to the Completion Day, any remaining business required by the Rules to be voted shall be disposed of on Orders of the Day. Business required to be voted shall be considered as a matter of priority.

Time of daily adjournment suspended

33(2) Rule 6(1) shall not be observed for the purposes of this Rule, and the Assembly shall not adjourn before the proceedings on the remaining business have been concluded.

Passage of remaining business subject to conditions

33(3) The disposal of any remaining business shall be subject to conditions established by the Rules.

Precedence for disposal of remaining business

33(4) Proceedings on Orders of the Day to dispose of any remaining business shall be as follows:

(a) disposal of remaining budgetary Estimates, Supplementary Estimates and any Further Estimates;
(b) final Appropriation Bill;
(c) specified bills.

REMAINING SPECIFIED BILLS

Specific government bills to be concluded

34(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Legislative Assembly or its Rules, specific bills introduced by a Minister of the Crown shall be concluded by the sitting prior to the Completion Day, as follows:

(a) government bills introduced during the fall period.
(b) government bills introduced before December 21st in the first session of a new Legislature.
(c) government bills which are subsidiary to the passage of the budgetary Estimates, provided that:
    (i) budget-related bills are identified by title in the government's financial plan;
    (ii) the purpose of each budget-related bill is explained in the government's financial plan, and;
    (iii) if a budget- related bill is required for a budgetary expenditure, that bill is explicitly linked to a Subvote or Allocation of a Vote in the Saskatchewan Estimates.
(d) the final Appropriation Bill.

Bills to be concluded shall be specified on Order Paper

34(2) Any government bill required by the Rules to be concluded prior to the Completion Day shall be specified as such on the Order Paper.

Removal of specified bill classification

34(3) The specified bill classification may be removed from a bill by the Government House Leader by standing in his or her place during Government Orders and making the announcement.

Procedures to complete consideration of specified bills

35(1) Specified bills not concluded by the day prior to the Completion Day shall be subject to the procedures outlined by this Rule.

Remaining specified bills in standing committees

35(2) In any case where a specified bill has not been reported by a standing committee before 9:00 a.m. on the day prior to the Completion Day, the committee shall convene to conclude examination of the bill as follows:

(a) The Chair will put the question on any amendments, new clauses or new schedules that had been previously proposed before putting a combined question, if required, in order to conclude the examination of the bill.
(b) No other amendments, new clauses or new schedules shall be proposed.
(c) The committee shall report each bill to the Assembly on Routine Proceedings later that day.
(d) Rule 130(2) shall not be observed for the purpose of concluding consideration of any remaining specified bills in standing committees.

Disposal procedures not applicable to certain specified bills

35(3) Rule 35(2) applies only to bills referred to standing committees after second reading.

Report of remaining specified bills from standing committees

35(4) Rule 89(a) shall not apply in the case of any specified bill reported by a standing committee on the sitting day prior to Completion Day such that the said bill shall not be committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills.

Remaining specified bills before the Assembly

35(5) On Orders of the Day on the day prior to the Completion Day, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk to call each relevant order in turn and in each case shall put all questions necessary to dispose of the main motion.

No referral to standing committees

35(6) Rule 85 shall not apply in the case of any specified bill read a second time on the day prior to the Completion Day. Immediately after a specified bill has been read a second time, it shall be committed to a Committee of the Whole Assembly.

Remaining specified bills in a Committee of the Whole on Bills

35(7) For each specified bill before a Committee of the Whole Assembly, the Chair shall put the question on any amendments, new clauses or new schedules that had been previously proposed before putting a combined question, if required, in order to conclude the examination of the bill and to adopt a report to be presented to the Assembly. No other amendments, new clauses or new schedules shall be proposed.

Remaining specified bills may advance two or more stages

35(8) Rule 75(1) does not apply to the third reading motion for any specified bill reported by a committee on the day prior to the Completion Day.

Conditions of disposal of remaining specified bills

36 The Rules for disposal of specified bills remaining on the day prior to the Completion Day shall be applied provided the following conditions have been met:

(a) Each specified bill introduced during the fall period of sittings or before December 21st during the first session of a new Legislature is subject to no less than 20 hours of debate.
(b) Each specified bill subsidiary to the passage of the budgetary Estimates is subject to no less than five hours of debate.

REMAINING BUDGETARY ESTIMATES

Remaining estimates to be concluded

37(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Legislative Assembly or its Rules, the Committee of Finance and each standing committee shall conclude and report any Estimates, Supplementary Estimates and Further Estimates referred to it no later than the day prior to the Completion Day. Estimates not concluded shall be subject to the procedures outlined by this Rule.

Remaining estimates in standing committees

37(2) In any case where a vote has not been reported by a standing committee before 9:00 a.m. on the day prior to the Completion Day, the committee shall convene to conclude examination of the estimates as follows:

(a) The Chair shall put the question on any amendment that had been previously proposed before putting a combined question, if required, on each vote.
(b) No other amendments shall be proposed.
(c) The committee shall conclude each vote in succession and adopt a report to be presented to the Assembly on Routine Proceedings later that day.
(d) The Rule for quorum in standing committees shall not be observed for the purpose of concluding consideration of any remaining estimates in standing committees.

Remaining estimates in Committee of Finance

37(3) On Orders of the Day on the day prior to the Completion Day, the Assembly shall resolve into Committee of Finance where the Chair shall call each relevant order in turn so that proceedings on all Estimates, Supplementary Estimates and Further Estimates are concluded.

Procedure for disposing of votes

37(4) For each vote before the Committee of Finance on the day prior to the Completion Day, the Chair shall put the question on any amendment that had been previously proposed before putting a combined question, if required, in order to conclude the examination of the vote and to adopt a report to be presented to the Assembly. No other amendments shall be proposed.

Conditions of disposal of remaining estimates

38 The Rules for disposal of remaining estimates on the day prior to the Completion Day shall be applied provided the following conditions have been met:

(a) The estimates of each government ministry are subject to no less than two hours of debate; and
(b) The cumulative total time for debate on the Estimates and Further Estimates is no less than 75 hours.

SPEAKER

Speaker's participation in debate

39 The Speaker shall not take part in any debate before the Assembly.

Speaker's casting vote

40 In case of an equality of votes, the Speaker shall give a casting vote, and any reasons stated by him or her shall be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Election of Speaker first order of business of new Legislature

41(1) The Assembly, on its first assembling after a general election and subsequently at any other time as determined pursuant to Rule 41(2), shall make the election of a Speaker the first order of business, which shall not be interrupted by any other proceeding.

Election of Speaker in case of vacancy

41(2) In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Speaker, as a result of death, resignation or otherwise of the incumbent of that Office, the Assembly shall proceed to elect one of its Members to be Speaker.

Ineligible candidates for Speaker

41(3) No Minister of the Crown or any opposition leader shall be eligible for election to the Office of Speaker.

Election of Speaker takes precedence until completed

41(4) The election of a Speaker shall take precedence over all other business and no motion of any kind shall be accepted, and the Assembly shall continue to sit, if necessary, beyond its ordinary hour of daily adjournment, until a Speaker is elected and is installed in the chair. If the Assembly has continued to sit beyond its ordinary hour of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall thereupon adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting.

Clerk to administer election of Speaker

42(1) For the purpose of electing a Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly or, in the absence of the Clerk of the Assembly, another Clerk-at-the-Table shall administer the election process and shall preside during the election of a Speaker.

No questions of privilege or order during election

42(2) During the election of a Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly shall not be permitted to entertain any question of privilege or point of order.

No debate during election

42(3) During the election of a Speaker, there shall be no debate.

Election of Speaker by secret ballot

43(1) The election of a Speaker shall be conducted by secret ballot as follows:

Procedure for candidates to inform Clerk at the start of a Legislature

(a) Before the commencement of a Legislature, any Member who wishes to stand for election to the Office of Speaker shall, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the fifth day preceding the day on which the election of a Speaker is expected to take place, in writing so inform the Clerk of the Assembly who shall prepare an alphabetical list of such Members' names who wish to stand as candidates for election to the Office of Speaker.

Procedure for candidates to inform Clerk at any other time

(b) At any other time, any Member who wishes to stand for election to the Office of Speaker shall, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the day on which the election of a Speaker is expected, in writing, so inform the Clerk of the Assembly who shall prepare an alphabetical list of such Members' names who wish to stand as candidates for election to the Office of Speaker.

Clerk to distribute list of candidates

43(2) Before the taking of the first ballot, the Clerk of the Assembly shall post in the lobbies the list of candidates and shall distribute that list to Members present in the Chamber.

Clerk to declare sole candidate as Speaker

43(3) If only one Member stands for election to the Office of Speaker, or at any stage a withdrawal pursuant to Rule 43(13) leaves only one candidate remaining, the Clerk of the Assembly shall announce in the Chamber that candidate's name and without any vote declare that Member to be elected Speaker.

Ballot papers to be provided by Clerk

43(4) If there are two or more candidates for election to the Office of Speaker, ballot papers shall be provided to Members present in the Chamber by the Clerk-at-the-Table prior to the taking of the ballot.

Marking the ballot paper

43(5) Members wishing to indicate their choice for the Office of Speaker shall print on the ballot paper the first and last name of a candidate whose name appears on the list distributed pursuant to this Rule.

Deposits of ballot papers

43(6) Members shall deposit their completed ballot papers in a box provided for that purpose on the Table.

Counting of ballot papers

43(7) Once all Members wishing to do so have deposited their ballot papers, the votes shall be counted by the Clerks-at-the-Table. The Clerk of the Assembly, being satisfied as to the accuracy of the count, shall destroy the ballots together with all records of the number of ballots cast for each candidate, and all those persons present will in no way divulge the number of ballots cast for any candidate.

Clerk to declare candidate with majority as Speaker

43(8) If one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the Clerk of the Assembly shall announce the name of that Member as the Speaker.

Subsequent ballots to exclude lowest candidate

43(9) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the name of the candidate having the smallest number of total votes cast shall be excluded from subsequent ballots.

Equality of votes

43(10) If every candidate receives the same number of votes, no names shall be excluded from the next ballot.

List of candidates for subsequent ballots

43(11) For each subsequent ballot, the Clerk of the Assembly shall prepare a list of candidates, post that list in the lobbies, and distribute it to Members present in the Chamber.

Subsequent ballots

43(12) Subsequent ballots shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in Rules 43(4) through (10). The balloting shall continue, in like manner, until such time as a candidate is elected Speaker upon having received a majority of the votes cast.

Withdrawal of candidates from election

43(13) At any time after the result of the first ballot has been declared, but before the commencement of a second or subsequent ballot, a candidate may withdraw from the election, which shall then proceed as if such Member had not been nominated.

Election of Deputy Speaker

44 On the first sitting day after the Speech from the Throne at the commencement of each Legislature, or from time to time as may be required, a Member shall be elected by the Assembly to be Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker to act in absence of Speaker

45(1) During the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall act as Speaker. During the absence of the Deputy Speaker, the Speaker may call on any Member, other than a Minister of the Crown or any opposition leader, to act as Speaker.

Deputy Speaker to serve as Chair of Committees of the Whole Assembly

45(2) The Deputy Speaker shall serve as permanent Chair of Committees of the Whole Assembly pursuant to Rule 114(1).

Ineligible candidates for Deputy Speaker

45(3) No Minister of the Crown or any opposition leader shall be eligible to be elected Deputy Speaker.

Election to take place on Orders of the Day

46(1) The election of Deputy Speaker shall be the first order of business on Orders of the Day.

Election of Deputy Speaker takes precedence over other business

46(2) When the election of Deputy Speaker is to take place, no other business and no motion of any kind shall be accepted. If necessary, the Assembly shall continue to sit beyond its ordinary hour of daily adjournment, until a Deputy Speaker is elected. If the Assembly has continued to sit beyond its ordinary hour of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting.

Certain Rules respecting election of Speaker to apply

46(3) For the purpose of electing a Deputy Speaker, except as specified in this Rule, the Rules for the election of Speaker will apply in the manner prescribed in Rules 42 through 43.

Unsuccessful candidates for election of Speaker may be candidates for election of Deputy Speaker

46(4) When the election of Deputy Speaker is to take place at the first sitting day after the commencement of a Legislature, any candidate who had not been elected to the Office of Speaker may stand for election as Deputy Speaker, by informing the Clerk of the Assembly in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the day on which the election of Deputy Speaker is expected to take place.

ORDER AND DECORUM

Speaker to preserve order and decorum

47(1) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide questions of order. In explaining a point of order or practice, the Speaker shall state the Rule or authority applicable to the case.

Rules for decorum in the Assembly

47(2) Members shall maintain the decorum of the Assembly by observing the following Rules:

(a) Members shall be dressed in appropriate business attire or ethnic dress.
(b) Food is not permitted in the Chamber.
(c) Non-alcoholic beverages are permitted in the Chamber in discreet containers approved by the Speaker.
(d) Smoking is not permitted in the Chamber.
(e) The use of mobile and cellular telephones, laptops, tablets and handheld computers, including personal digital assistants, may be used in the Chamber and committee rooms provided they are operated silently and not used as a telephone, recording device, camera or pager.
(f) Exhibit of non-parliamentary items on Members' desks or in the Chamber is prohibited.
(g) At no time shall Members pass between the Chair and the Mace or between a Member speaking and the Chair.
(h) When the Speaker is standing or putting a question, no Member may enter, walk out of or across the Assembly, or make any noise or disturbance.
(i) When the Speaker is in the Chair, or during a recorded division, each Member must be in the Member's designated desk in order to take part in proceedings.
(j) Members shall bow to the dais when leaving or returning to the Chamber.
(k) Members shall refrain from loud private conversations.
(l) The use of offensive, provocative and threatening language in the Assembly and committees is strictly prohibited.
(m) Members shall rise at the entrance and departure of Lieutenant Governor, and whenever an address of the Sovereign or Lieutenant Governor is presented to the Assembly by the Speaker.
(n) When the Assembly adjourns, Members shall keep their seats until the Speaker has left the Chair.
(o) The multimedia guidelines prescribed by the Rules shall be observed by Members.

STRANGERS

Definition of stranger

48(1) Any person within the precincts of the Chamber who is neither a Member nor officer of the Legislative Assembly shall be regarded as a stranger except as otherwise specified in the Rules or Order of the Assembly. The precinct of the Chamber shall consist of the floor, the public galleries, the Speaker's gallery, and the press gallery.

Strangers on Chamber floor to be introduced

48(2) No stranger shall be admitted to the floor of the Chamber unless first introduced. Strangers shall withdraw from the floor of the Chamber during proceedings on a recorded division.

Withdrawal of strangers

48(3) If any Member takes notice that strangers are present, the Speaker or the Chair, as the case may be, shall without debate or amendment immediately put the question, "Shall strangers be ordered to withdraw?" Such a motion may be made no more than once in one sitting day.

Speaker may order withdrawal

48(4) Notwithstanding this Rule, the Speaker or the Chair may order the withdrawal of strangers.

Former Members and visiting parliamentarians permitted behind the Chamber bar

48(5) Former Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, former Members of the Parliament of Canada, and current Members of other legislative assemblies and parliaments shall be considered special visitors and as such shall not be regarded as strangers. Special visitors are permitted to attend the Chamber behind the bar on either side of the Assembly.

Legislative Pages are not strangers

48(6) The Legislative Pages, upon introduction to the Assembly, shall not be regarded as strangers for the duration of the session unless otherwise ordered.

Guests seated on Chamber floor during special events not strangers

48(7) During special occasions, guests of the Assembly may be permitted to attend the galleries and the floor of the Chamber without introduction and for such purposes shall not be considered as strangers. These occasions are traditionally the Speech from the Throne and Budget Address.

Conduct of strangers

48(8) While the Assembly or any committee is sitting, any stranger, guest or visitor admitted to any part of the Assembly or gallery who causes disorder or does not withdraw, when so ordered by the Speaker or the Chair, shall be taken into custody by the Sergeant-at-Arms. No person so taken into custody shall be released without an Order of the Assembly.

RULES OF DEBATE

Member speaking

49 Every Member desiring to speak is to rise in his or her place and address the Speaker.

Members rising simultaneously

50 When two or more Members rise to speak, the Speaker calls upon the Member who first rose in his or her place; but a motion may be made that any Member who has risen "be now heard," which motion shall be immediately put, without debate.

Inappropriate language and actions while participating in debate

51 When a motion is under discussion, no Member shall:

(a) interrupt the Member speaking except to raise a point of order, call attention to the lack of a quorum, call attention to the presence of strangers, or to ask a question;
(b) reflect on the absence of another Member;
(c) refer to another Member by name, but rather by title, position or constituency name;
(d) reflect on the conduct of the Speaker or other presiding officer except by way of a substantive motion with notice;
(e) use offensive, provocative or threatening language;
(f) make a personal charge or accusation against a Member except by way of a substantive motion with notice;
(g) involve the Speaker, any presiding officer, or officer of the Assembly in the debate;
(h) speak disrespectfully or involve in the debate the Sovereign, any member of the Royal Family, the Governor General, or the Lieutenant Governor of the Province;
(i) censure or impute motives of judges and courts of justice, any Officer of the Assembly, public service employee or Legislative Assembly Service employee;
(j) anticipate discussion on a motion set down for future consideration;
(k) use offensive words against the Assembly or against any Member thereof;
(l) make personal references or attack the person of judges, any Officer of the Assembly, any Legislative Assembly Service employee, or any public service employee;
(m) persist in irrelevance or tedious repetition, either of his or her own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members;
(n) excessively read extracts from documents, books, publications, and correspondence;
(o) quote anything that if stated directly would be contrary to the Rules and practices of the Assembly, except that in reading an extract the use of a Member's proper name may be permitted;
(p) use any display, prop, demonstration or exhibit of any kind to illustrate his or her remarks; or
(q) involve guests in the galleries in the debate.

Documents cited by Ministers

52 Any document quoted by a Minister of the Crown in debate or in response to a question during proceedings shall be tabled upon request. A Minister of the Crown is not obliged to table a briefing note if referred to during proceedings. If a document is quoted from an electronic device, and the document is required to be tabled, the Minister of the Crown shall table a printed copy.

Remarks to be addressed to the Chair

53 All remarks shall be addressed to the Speaker in the Assembly or the Chair in a committee.

No Member to speak twice

54(1) No Member may speak twice to a question except in explanation of a material part of the Member's speech which may have been misquoted or misunderstood, but then the Member is not to introduce any new matter. No debate shall be allowed upon such explanation.

Reply

54(2) A reply is permitted by a Member who has moved a substantive motion but not to the mover of an amendment, the previous question, or an instruction to a committee. A Member closing the debate by reply cannot propose an amendment.

Closing debate

54(3) In all cases the Speaker shall inform the Assembly that the reply of the mover of the original motion closes the debate. The right of any Member entitled to speak shall prevail over the call to close debate.

Exception to general provisions for closing debate

54(4) The reply of the mover of the Budget Motion to close debate shall be in accordance with the Rules for proceedings on the Budget Debate.

Points of order

55 A Member addressing the Assembly, if called to order either by the Speaker or on a point raised by another Member, shall sit down while the point of order is being stated, after which he or she may explain. Before giving his or her decision, the Speaker may permit other Members to speak to the point of order, but such interventions must be strictly relevant to the point of order taken.

Reading the question

56 When the question under discussion does not appear on the Order Paper or has not been printed and distributed, any Member may require it to be read at any time of the debate, but not so as to interrupt a Member while speaking.

DISORDER

Authority to preserve order and decorum

57(1) The Speaker may revoke access to participate in proceedings for that sitting day of any Member who willfully disregards the Chair's authority to preserve order and decorum. If in a Committee of the Whole Assembly, the Chair shall report the Member to the Speaker in the Assembly.

Naming of Member

57(2) The Speaker may name any Member who persistently disregards the Chair's authority to preserve order and decorum. If in a Committee of the Whole Assembly, the Chair shall report the Member to the Speaker in the Assembly.

Procedure upon Member being named

57(3) When a Member has been named, that Member shall withdraw from the Assembly and shall be suspended from the service of the Assembly for the remainder of the sitting day. A motion may be moved without notice by a House Leader, or Deputy House Leader, to increase the length of the suspension of a named Member, and the motion shall be decided without amendment or debate.

Recess during grave disorder

58 In the case of grave disorder, the Speaker may recess the Assembly, without question put, for a time to be determined by the Speaker.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Requirements for motions

59 The following Rules apply to motions:

(a) All motions shall be in writing before being proposed by the Speaker.

(b) Every motion shall be drafted in the form of a proposition such that, if adopted, becomes either a resolution or Order of the Assembly.

(c) Preambles to motions are inadmissible except in the case of a formal motion or a motion of constitutional importance.

(d) No motion or amendment requires a seconder, except:

(i) the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne and any amendment to this motion; or

(ii) the Budget Motion and any amendment to this motion.

(e) A motion may not be moved if it is substantially the same question as one that has been decided in the same session.

Notices required for motions

60(1) Two sitting days' notice shall be given of a motion for first reading of a bill, a motion for a resolution, order or address, or for the appointment of any committee; but this shall not apply to public bills, after introduction, or to private bills, or to notice provisions otherwise specified by the Rules.

Motions must be in writing

60(2) Notice shall be in writing and laid on the Table under the signature of the Member who proposes to move the motion. Notices shall be printed in the *Votes and Proceedings* of that day.

Motion moved by unanimous consent

61 A motion may, in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover, be made by unanimous consent of the Assembly without notice having been given pursuant to Rule 58(1).

Acceptable motions when a question is under debate

62 When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received unless to amend it or to supersede it by disposing of the main question or temporarily setting aside the debate.

Amendments to motions

63(1) An amendment may be moved to any debatable motion except as otherwise prohibited by the Rules.

Object of an amendment

63(2) A motion to amend a question may be proposed to:

(a) omit certain words;

(b) omit certain words in order to insert or add others; or

(c) insert or add words.

Omission of all words prohibited

63(3) An amendment to omit all words is not in order.

Notice not required for amendments

63(4) Notice is not required to move an amendment.

Amendments must be in writing

63(5) All amendments shall be in writing before being proposed.

Amendment to be relevant to main motion

63(6) An amendment is required to be relevant to the subject matter of the question it proposes to modify.

Concurrent debate on amendments

63(7) The debate on any amendment shall be considered to be concurrent such that it includes both the content of the motion and the amendment, as both matters are under consideration as alternative propositions.

Subamendments

63(8) No amendment to an amendment may be proposed unless otherwise specified in the Rules.

Superseding motions

64(1) A motion to supersede a question shall be in the form of the previous question or a dilatory motion and may be moved when a question is under debate. A motion to supersede is not permitted in circumstances when a motion is required to be voted by the Rules.

Previous question procedure

64(2) The previous question may be moved when the main question is under debate. Once proposed, debate shall continue on the main question, but all amendments to it shall be precluded. The previous question shall be in the following words: "That this question be now put." If the previous question is resolved in the affirmative, the original question is to be put immediately, without any amendment or debate.

Dilatory motions

64(3) A dilatory motion may be moved to postpone consideration of the question. A dilatory motion shall be of one of the following types:

(a) that the debate be now adjourned;
(b) that the Assembly do now proceed to another Order; or
(c) that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Procedure on dilatory motions

64(4) The following rules apply to the participation in debate by a Member who moves a dilatory motion:

(a) A Member who has obtained the adjournment of a debate may re-enter the debate on that question at a later time;
(b) A Member who has lost a motion for the adjournment of debate may continue in the debate provided the Member does so immediately;
(c) A Member who had previously adjourned a debate is not precluded from subsequently moving an amendment to that question;
(d) A Member who has successfully moved a dilatory motion is not permitted to move another dilatory motion in the course of that debate or any subsequent amendment;
(e) A Member who has moved a motion to proceed to another order or the adjournment of the Assembly is precluded from continuing in the debate on the question superceded.

Orders postponed by dilatory motions

64(5) When a dilatory motion is adopted, the motion under debate shall be set aside for the remainder of the sitting day and set down on the Order Paper for the next sitting day at the stage where its progress was interrupted.

Unparliamentary motions

65 When the Speaker is of the opinion that a motion offered is contrary to the Rules and Privileges of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker shall apprise the Assembly immediately, before putting the question, and quote the authority applicable to the case.

DEBATABLE MOTIONS

Debatable motions

66(1) Except as otherwise specified in these Rules, the following motions are debatable:
Every motion:

(a) standing on the Order paper;
(b) for the concurrence in a report of a standing or special committee;
(c) for the previous question;
(d) for the second reading of a bill;
(e) for the third reading of a bill;
(f) for Priority of Debate when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance;
(g) for the adoption in a Committee of the Whole Assembly of the resolution, clause, section, preamble or title under consideration;
(h) for the appointment of a committee;
(i) for reference to a committee of a report or any return laid on the Table of the Assembly;
(j) for the suspension of any of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly;
(k) and such other motion, as may be required for the observance of the proprieties of the Assembly, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its Officers, the management of its business, the arrangement of its proceedings, the correctness of its records, the fixing of its sitting days, or the times of its meeting.

Non-debatable motions

66(2) *All other motions*, including adjournment motions, shall be decided without debate or amendment.

ROYAL RECOMMENDATION

"Money" motion: Message to precede

67(1) Any vote, resolution, address or bill introduced in the Assembly for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost to any purpose whatsoever, or to impose any new or additional charge upon the public revenue or upon the people, or to release or compound any sum of money due to the Crown, or to grant any property of the Crown, or to authorize any loan or any charge upon the credit of the Province, shall be recommended to the Assembly by Message of the Lieutenant Governor before it is considered by the Assembly. (See sections 54 and 90 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*.)

Recommendation on bills required by second reading

67(2) Notwithstanding Rule 68(1), consideration or debate on any bill that requires a recommendation of the Crown may proceed up to the motion for second reading. The motion for second reading may not be moved until the receipt of the recommendation has been noted on the Order Paper or indicated orally in the Assembly by a Minister of the Crown.

CLOSURE

Closure

68(1) Immediately before the order of the day for resuming an adjourned debate is called or if the Assembly be in Committees of the Whole Assembly, any Minister of the Crown – standing in his or her place, having given notice at a previous sitting of the Member's intention so to do – may move that the debate shall not be further adjourned or that the further consideration of any resolution or resolutions, clause or clauses, section or sections, preamble or preambles, title or titles shall be the first business of the committee and shall not further be postponed. In either case, such question shall be decided without debate or amendment. If the same shall be resolved in the affirmative, then no Member shall speak more than once or longer than 20 minutes on any such adjourned debate or, if in committee, on any such resolution, clause, section, preamble or title. If such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before 1:00 a.m., no Member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall be decided immediately.

Specified bills exempt

68(2) This Rule does not apply to specified bills.

VOTING

Divisions

69 When Members have been called in, preparatory to a division, no further debate is to be permitted.

Recorded divisions

70 Upon a division, the Yeas and Nays shall not be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings* unless demanded by two Members.

Length of division bells in the Assembly

71(1) When the Speaker has put the question on a motion and a recorded division is requested pursuant to Rule 68, the bells to call in the Members shall sound:

(a) not more than 30 minutes on a debatable motion; and

(b) not more than 10 minutes on a non-debatable motion.

Length of division bells in a Committee of the Whole

71(2) Notwithstanding Rule 71(1), when a recorded division is requested in a Committee of the Whole Assembly, the division bells shall sound for not more than 10 minutes.

Personal interest

72 No Member is entitled to vote upon any question in which the Member has a direct pecuniary interest, and the vote of any Member so interested shall be disallowed. This Rule does not preclude a Member who has declared a pecuniary interest from proposing the motion, participating in the debate, or proposing an amendment.

PUBLIC BILLS

Imperfect bill

73 No bill may be introduced in blank or imperfect form.

Omnibus Bills

74(1) No bill to enact more than one new Act or to amend more than one Act may be introduced if that bill joins together separate and distinct matters of unrelated subjects except as specified in the Rules.

Omnibus Bills that may be introduced

74(2) An omnibus bill may be introduced to amend more than one Act if:

(a) the amendments deal with an interrelated topic that can be regarded as implementing a single broad policy;

(b) the amendments to be effected to each Act are of a similar nature in each case.

Separate readings

75(1) Every bill shall receive three readings on different days prior to being passed, but on urgent or extraordinary occasions a bill may, by leave, be read two or three times or advanced two or more stages in one day.

Combined readings of Appropriation Bill

75(2) Notwithstanding this Rule, second and third reading of the Appropriation Bill shall be combined into one reading.

Certificate as to readings

76 When a bill is read in the Assembly, the Clerk of the Assembly shall certify upon it the date of each reading and the date of passage. The Clerk may designate another Clerk-at-the-Table to make such certification.

Introduction

77 Every bill shall be introduced upon a motion for first reading specifying the title of the bill.

First reading

78 When a bill is introduced by a Member, the question "That this bill be now introduced and read the first time" shall be decided without amendment or debate.

Referral of bill to a committee after first reading

79(1) Immediately after any bill has been read the first time, the Member presenting the bill may move a motion, without notice, to refer the said bill to a policy field committee. The Member moving the referral motion may be permitted to give a succinct explanation of the motion.

Printing of bill prior to referral

79(2) No bill shall be referred to a committee after first reading unless the bill has been printed and distributed to Members.

Disposition of referral motion

79(3) Any motion made pursuant to this Rule shall be decided without debate. If the motion is decided in the negative, the said bill shall be ordered for second reading.

Certain bills exempt

79(4) This Rule does not apply to Appropriation or private bills.

Proceedings on bills referred to a committee after first reading

80(1) When a bill is referred to a policy field committee after first reading, the committee may conduct hearings on the subject matter of the bill and shall report its observations, opinions and recommendations with respect to the bill.

Concurrence in committee report

80(2) Upon the concurrence of a committee report that a bill be proceeded with, the said bill shall be ordered for second reading.

Printed before second reading

81 No bill shall be read a second time, unless it has been printed and distributed to the Members at least one day previous and has been subsequently marked "PRINTED" on the Order Paper.

Second reading

82 The motion on Orders of the Day for the second reading of a bill shall read, "That the bill be now read a second time."

Admissible amendments

83 An amendment to the motion for second reading of a bill may be moved using the form of the hoist, the reasoned amendment or the referral of the subject matter of the bill to a committee of the Assembly. The adoption of an amendment made under this Rule shall result in the rejection of the bill.

Readings before committal to a committee

84 Before a bill is committed to either a policy field committee or a Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills for clause-by-clause consideration, it shall have been read twice in the Assembly.

Referral of bills to a policy field committee after second reading

85 Immediately after any bill has been read a second time, unless otherwise specified by the Rules, the Member responsible for the bill shall rise in his or her place and designate:

(a) to which policy field committee the bill is to be committed; or

(b) that it is to be committed to a Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills.

The designation of the Member shall be deemed to be an Order of the Assembly.

Proceedings on bills committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills

86(1) During proceedings in a Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills, the preamble shall be first postponed, and then every clause considered by the committee in its proper order that being clauses, new clauses, schedules, new schedules and the preamble and the title to be considered last.

Amendments in a Committee of the Whole on Bills

86(2) A Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills may make amendments that are relevant to the clauses of the bill that are consistent with the principles and objects of the bill and otherwise conform to Rules and practices of the Legislative Assembly.

Reports from Committee of the Whole on Bills

86(3) A Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills to which a bill has been referred by the Assembly shall be empowered to report the bill with or without amendment or to report that the bill not proceed.

Setting down for third reading

86(4) When a bill is reported without amendment, it is immediately ordered to be read the third time at such time as may be appointed by the Assembly.

First and second reading of the amendments

86(5) All amendments made to a bill shall be reported to the Assembly by the Chair, and the same shall be received. The motion for first and second reading of the amendments shall be disposed of immediately before the bill is ordered to be read the third time at the next sitting of the Assembly.

Reprinting of amended bills

86(6) When a bill has been amended in a Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills, it shall be reprinted as amended if so ordered by the committee or as the Clerk of the Assembly may direct.

Proceedings on bills committed to a policy field committee after second reading

87(1) Any bill committed to a policy field committee after second reading shall be considered and reported in accordance with the Rules for proceedings on bills in a Committee of the Whole Assembly on Bills.

Public hearings possible after second reading

87(2) When a bill is referred to a policy field committee after second reading, the committee may conduct hearings on the content of the bill before initiating clause-by-clause consideration.

Restrictions on hearings

87(3) No hearings may be conducted if a bill had been subject to committee consideration after first reading.

Report of policy field committee on bills

88 A policy field committee to which a bill has been referred by the Assembly after second reading shall be empowered to report the same with or without amendments, or to report that the bill not proceed. The report may contain a written statement of the committee's conclusions if the bill was the subject of a hearing.

Procedure on report from policy field committee

89 When a bill is reported pursuant to Rule 88, the following procedures shall apply:

(a) Any bill reported shall be considered committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills unless there is unanimous consent by the Assembly for the bill to be ordered for third reading.

(b) All amendments made in a policy field committee shall be reported to the Assembly; any bill reported with amendment may be reprinted, as amended, before being committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills.

(c) When a report recommends that the bill not proceed, a motion to concur in the same shall be put immediately and decided without debate.

(d) When committal of a bill to a Committee of the Whole on Bills is waived, it is immediately ordered for third reading at such time as may be appointed by the Assembly.

(e) When committal of an amended bill to a Committee of the Whole on Bills is waived, the amendments shall be received, and the motion for first and second reading of the amendments shall be disposed of before the bill is ordered for third reading at the next sitting of the Assembly.

Procedure in a Committee of the Whole on Bills committed from a policy field committee

90 When a bill is committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills pursuant to Rule 89, the following procedures shall apply:

(a) Two hours will be allocated to Private Members for questions and comments.

(b) Private Members may be recognized more than once but must yield the floor after 20 minutes; should the list of speakers be exhausted before the two hours are up, Members who have already spoken may be permitted to speak again.

(c) No time limits shall apply to the Minister of the Crown who is responsible for the bill while responding to questions.

(d) Once the time allocated for questions and comments has expired and upon the completion of the Minister's responses, the Chair shall put every question necessary to report the bill to the Assembly.

Reprinting of amended bills to be noted on Order Paper

91 When the bill has been sent to be reprinted, it shall be noted on the Order Paper "NOT YET REPRINTED" and shall not be further proceeded with until that notation has been removed.

Third reading

92(1) The motion on Orders of the Day for the third reading of a bill shall read, "That the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title."

Third reading amendments

92(2) The same type of amendments that are permissible at second reading may be made to the motion for third reading.

Suspension of a bill

93(1) Proceedings on a public bill introduced by a Minister of the Crown shall, at the request of the opposition, be suspended for a period of three sitting days following first reading either before or during second reading debate or during committee stage. Such a request can be made only once during consideration of any bill and shall be made by the Member standing in his or her place.

Appropriation Bill and specified bills exempt

93(2) This Rule does not apply to Appropriation Bills or to specified bills.

REINSTATEMENT OF PUBLIC BILLS

Lapsed bills may be reinstated at next session

94(1) A bill that has lapsed because of a prorogation before it has been passed may be proceeded with in the next session of the same Legislature.

Minister to move reinstatement motion

94(2) A Minister of the Crown may move a motion, with notice, to reinstate a government public bill from the previous session of the same Legislature and to restore it to the Order Paper at the same stage the bill had reached at the time of prorogation.

Reinstatement to precede consideration of any Special Order

94(3) A motion to reinstate a Public Bill shall be considered on Orders of the Day and shall precede the consideration of any Special Order.

Deadline for reinstatement

94(4) A motion to reinstate a bill must be made within five sitting days of commencement of the fall period of sittings of the Assembly.

Reinstated bills to be specified for completion

94(5) Any bill reinstated shall be considered a specified bill and the time spent in consideration of the bill during the previous session shall be carried forward.

No debate on reinstatement motion

94(6) A motion to reinstate a bill shall be decided without debate.

Lapsed bills not reinstated may be introduced as new bill

94(7) If the motion for reinstatement of a bill is not adopted, the bill may be reintroduced as a new bill.

Crown Recommendation must be renewed

94(8) The Crown Recommendation of a reinstated bill, made pursuant to Rule 67, shall be renewed in accordance with section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, before the bill is further considered. The Message of the Lieutenant Governor shall be renewed as soon as possible after the adoption of an order for reinstatement.

PRIVATE BILLS

Receiving petitions for private bills

95(1) All petitions for private bills shall be in duplicate and shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly not later than the fourth sitting day.

Presenting petitions for private bills

95(2) No petition for any private bill shall be received by the Assembly if presented after the twelfth sitting day.

Introduction of a private bill

95(3) No private bill may be introduced in the Assembly after the twenty-fifth sitting day.

Deposit

96(1) Every applicant for a private bill shall deposit with the Clerk of the Assembly, along with the petition for same, two copies of the bill with marginal notes inserted and an accepted cheque payable to the Minister of Finance for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars ($250) if the said bill does not exceed 10 pages, and fifteen dollars ($15) additional for each page over that number; 450 words shall be held to constitute a page.

Bill to incorporate a company

96(2) In the case of a bill incorporating a company, a receipt from the Director of Business Corporations for any statutory fees required shall also be deposited with the Clerk of the Assembly.

No remittance except on recommendation of committee

97 No remittance of a deposit on account of a private bill or any portion of the deposit shall be ordered by the Assembly unless the same has been recommended by the committee charged with its consideration, or unless the bill has been withdrawn, rejected or recommended that the bill not be proceeded with, in which case a motion shall be required for the actual expenses incurred to be deducted from the deposit received before making any remittance.

Publication of Rules

98 The Clerk of the Assembly shall publish, as necessary, in *The Saskatchewan Gazette* the necessary Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly respecting private bills. The Clerk shall post in the lobbies of the Assembly, on or before the first day of every session, the time limit for presenting petitions for and introducing private bills.

Publication of notice of intention

99(1) All petitions to the Legislature for private bills of any nature whatsoever shall require a notice clearly and distinctly specifying the nature and object of the application and, where the same refers to any proposed work, indicating generally the location of the work, and signed by and on behalf of the petitioners, with the address of the party signing the same. When the petition is for an act of incorporation, the name of the proposed company shall be stated in the notice.

Time and location of publication notice

99(2) Such notice shall be published, prior to the filing of the petition with the Clerk of the Assembly as required in Rule 91(1), in two consecutive issues of *The Saskatchewan Gazette* and four consecutive issues of a newspaper published in English and having circulation in the locality affected.

Notice to be filed with Clerk

99(3) A copy of the notice with a statutory declaration of the several publications of advertisement shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly along with the petition and bill.

Examination of private bills

100(1) The Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel shall examine all private bills for the purpose of seeing that they are drawn in accordance with the Rules of the Legislative Assembly respecting private bills.

Model bill for acts of incorporation

100(2) Every bill for an act of incorporation, where a form of model bill has been adopted, shall be drawn in accordance with such model bill, copies of which may be obtained from the Clerk of the Assembly. Any provisions contained in any such bill which are not in accord with the model bill shall be inserted between brackets and shall be so printed.

Petitions to the Standing Committee on Private Bills

101 Petitions for private bills, when received by the Assembly, are to be taken into consideration without special reference by the Standing Committee on Private Bills which is to report in each case whether the Rules, with regard to notice, have been complied with. In every case where the notice shall prove to have been insufficient, either as regards the petition as a whole or any matter contained in the petition which ought to have been specifically referred to in the notice, or is otherwise defective, the committee is to recommend to the Assembly the course to be taken.

Introduction of private bills

102 All private bills are introduced on petition. After such petition has been received and favourably reported on by the Standing Committee on Private Bills, such bill shall be laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the Assembly, shall be deemed to have been read the first time, and to have been ordered for a second reading when so recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Bills confirming agreements

103 When any bill for confirming any agreement is filed with the Clerk of the Assembly, a true copy of such agreement must be attached to the bill.

Reference to the Standing Committee on Private Bills

104 Every private bill, when read a second time, is referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills, and all petitions for or against the bill are considered as referred to such committee.

Provision not contained in notice

105 It is the duty of the Standing Committee on Private Bills to call the attention of the Assembly to any provisions inserted in such bill that do not appear to have been contemplated in the notice for the same as reported by the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Preamble not proven

106 When the Standing Committee on Private bills reports to the Assembly that it has materially changed the preamble of a bill, or that the preamble has not been proved to its satisfaction, or otherwise reports unfavourably on the bill, the committee must also state the grounds for such decision. Such a bill shall not be placed on the Order Paper unless by special Order of the Assembly.

All bills to be reported

107 The Standing Committee on Private Bills to which a private bill has been committed shall report the same to the Assembly before Completion Day. The committee is empowered to report a private bill with or without amendments, or to report that the bill not proceed. The report may contain a written statement of the committee's conclusions if the private bill was the subject of a hearing.

Consideration in a Committee of the Whole

108 When a Private Bill is reported pursuant to Rule 107, the following procedures shall apply:

(a) Any private bill reported to the Assembly by the Standing Committee on Private Bills shall be considered committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills unless there is unanimous consent by the Assembly for the bill to be ordered for third reading.

(b) All amendments made in the committee shall be reported to the Assembly; any bill reported with amendments may be reprinted, as amended, before being committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills.

(c) When a report recommends that the private bill not proceed, a motion to concur in the same shall be put immediately and decided without debate.

(d) When committal of a private bill to a Committee of the Whole on Bills is waived, it is immediately ordered for third reading at such time as may be appointed by the Assembly.

(e) When committal of an amended private bill to a Committee of the Whole on Bills is waived, the amendments shall be received and the motion for first and second reading of the amendments shall be disposed of before the bill is ordered for third reading at the next sitting of the Assembly.

Suspension of Rules

109 Except in cases of urgent and pressing necessity, no motion for the suspension of *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* or any Rules respecting private bills or petitions for private bills shall be entertained, unless the same has been reported by the Standing Committee on Private Bills, and the committee in its report shall state the grounds for recommending such suspension.

Clerk to post list of private bills

110 The Clerk of the Assembly shall post in the lobbies daily a list of all private bills upon which any committee is appointed to sit, specifying the time and place of the meeting.

Unprovided cases

111 Except as otherwise specified in the Rules, the Rules relating to public bills shall apply to private bills.

COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY

Types of Committees of the Whole

112 Committees of the Whole Assembly may be appointed by Order of the Assembly to deliberate on bills, to examine estimates and to conduct inquiries into a matter of concern. A Committee of the Whole Assembly appointed to consider estimates and Appropriation Bills shall be designated the Committee of Finance.

Committee of the Whole: order for

113 When an Order of the Day is called for the Assembly to go into a Committee of the Whole Assembly, the Speaker shall leave the chair without question put.

Chair of Committees

114(1) The Deputy Speaker shall act as permanent Chair of Committees of the Whole Assembly and shall preside over and maintain order in those committees.

Deputy Chair of Committees

114(2) A Deputy Chair of Committees shall be elected at the commencement of every Legislature. The Member shall hold office for the term of the Legislature. During the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair of Committees shall act as Chair of Committees of the Whole Assembly.

Order and decorum

114(3) The Chair shall maintain order in Committees of the Whole Assembly, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the Assembly; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the Assembly, on receiving a report thereof.

Rules of committees

115(1) The rules and procedures followed in the Assembly shall be observed in Committees of the Whole Assembly, so far as may be applicable, except the Rule limiting the number of times a Member may speak.

Debate

115(2) Speeches in Committees of the Whole Assembly must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Restrictions on substantive motions in a Committee of the Whole

115(3) No substantive motions shall be permitted in any Committee of the Whole Assembly when bills or budgetary estimates are under consideration.

Resolutions concurred in immediately

116 Whenever a resolution is reported from any Committee of the Whole Assembly, a motion to concur in the same shall be immediately put and be decided without debate or amendment.

Motion to leave chair

117 A motion that the Chair leave the chair shall always be in order, shall take precedence of any other motion, and shall not be debatable. Such motion, if rejected, cannot be renewed unless some intermediate proceeding has taken place.

Appointment of Committee of Finance

118(1) The Committee of Finance shall be appointed at the commencement of every session, immediately after the adoption of an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Examination of Executive Council estimates

118(2) In each session, the Estimates, Supplementary Estimates, and any Further Estimates, as laid before the Legislative Assembly for the operation of Executive Council, shall be deemed referred to the Committee of Finance pursuant to Rule 30(9) for examination and report.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Establishment of standing committees

119 Standing committees are permanently established by the Assembly and continue in existence unless otherwise ordered.

Mandate and power of standing committees

120(1) The mandate of each standing committee shall be that specified by the Rules or otherwise ordered by the Assembly or required by statute.

Powers of standing committees

120(2) Standing committees are empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters as may be referred to them by the Assembly or otherwise stipulated under Rules, to report from time to time, to send for persons, documents and things, to examine witnesses under oath, to meet outside the seat of government to hear testimony, and to sit during periods before the Assembly has convened after a general election, and when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued.

Lapsing of terms of reference

120(3) When a Legislature is dissolved, all orders of reference lapse and the work of committees ceases.

General Provisions

Application of general provisions

121 The general provisions apply to all standing committees unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly or its Rules.

Membership proportional to party standings in Assembly

122(1) The membership of standing committees shall, so far as reasonably practicable, be proportional to party membership in the Assembly.

Membership to be seven Members

122(2) Unless otherwise ordered or authorized by Rules, the membership of a standing committee shall consist of seven Members.

Setting of permanent membership

122(3) At the commencement of a new Legislature, the permanent membership of the various standing committees shall be set out in the report of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Changes to permanent membership

122(4) Changes to the permanent membership of a standing committee shall be effected by Order of the Assembly or, if a session is adjourned or prorogued, by an Order of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Temporary substitutions

122(5) Membership of any standing committee shall be transferable on a temporary basis by written notice signed by the original Member and filed with the Chair of the committee. The position of Chair or Deputy Chair is not transferable.

Guidelines for temporary substitutions

122(6) Temporary substitutions in the membership shall be permitted for a specific time period or for committee consideration of a specific issue. The substituted Member will be considered for all purposes to be acting in the place of the original Member. The substitution may be terminated at any time by the original Member of the committee.

Substitutions not subject to membership ratio Rule

122(7) Temporary substitutions in membership may be made notwithstanding Rule 122(1).

Suspended Members barred

122(8) A Member may not attend a committee during any period in which the Member is suspended from service of the Assembly.

Rights of non-permanent Members

122(9) Any Member who is not a permanent Member of the committee may attend a meeting of a standing committee and, by leave of the committee, may participate in the proceedings but shall not vote, be permitted to move a motion, be included in quorum or raise a point of order.

Membership of Speaker on committees restricted

122(10) The Speaker shall not be appointed to a committee without the Speaker's consent, unless otherwise specified in the Rules.

Presiding Members of standing committees

123(1) At its first meeting or at its first meeting after a vacancy occurs in the position, a standing committee must proceed to the election of a Chair and Deputy Chair.

Party affiliation of Chair and Deputy Chair

123(2) The Chair of a standing committee shall be a government Member, and the Deputy Chair shall be an opposition Member, unless otherwise specified in the Rules. No Minister of the Crown or any opposition leader shall be eligible to be elected to preside.

Designation of acting Chair

123(3) If the Chair and Deputy Chair are not present at a meeting, the Member may have a substitution, however the committee shall decide which member of the committee shall temporarily chair the meeting.

Temporary Chairs

123(4) While chairing a meeting, the Chair or Deputy Chair may ask any other Member of the committee to temporarily chair the meeting.

Casting vote of Chair

123(5) Where votes on a question before a standing committee are equally divided, the Chair or any Member acting in the capacity of Chair shall have a casting vote unless otherwise specified in the Rules.

Conduct of proceedings

124 The procedures of a Committee of the Whole Assembly shall apply to all standing committees unless otherwise specified in the Rules.

Order and decorum

125 The Chair shall maintain order and decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the committee. Disorder in a standing committee shall be censured only by the Assembly, upon receiving a report.

No committee meetings during sittings of the Assembly

126(1) No committee may meet simultaneously with a sitting of the Assembly, except by Order of the Assembly.

Recess and adjournment during Assembly sitting days

126(2) On days when the Assembly is sitting, standing committees shall follow the Assembly's recess and adjournment times, except as otherwise ordered by the committee.

Notice of meetings

127(1) On the instruction of the Chair or another Member acting in the capacity of the Chair, a notice advising the Members of the committee of a meeting and meeting agenda should be circulated as soon as practicable by the Clerk of the committee.

Calling of first meeting

127(2) Upon request of any Member assigned by the Assembly or by the Standing Committee on House Services to the membership of the committee, the Clerk to that committee shall give notice of meeting for the first meeting of that committee.

Admission to meetings

128(1) The meetings of all committees are open to the public unless otherwise ordered by the committee.

Committee may exclude persons from *in camera* meetings

128(2) A committee may decide to meet *in camera*, during which time all persons other than committee Members or officers shall be excluded unless otherwise specified by the committee.

Withdrawal of disorderly persons

128(3) The Chair may order any person, excluding the Members of the committee, to withdraw from a meeting if that person's conduct is disorderly.

Minutes of meetings

129 The minutes of a committee meeting will record the Members present and the votes and proceedings of the meeting.

Recorded votes

130(1) When the Chair has put the question on a motion, a Member of the committee may require that the respective vote of each Member present be recorded in the committee's minutes.

No division bells in standing committees

130(2) When a recorded vote is requested pursuant to this Rule, no division bell shall be sounded to call in the Members not present, and the vote will be taken immediately.

Quorum

131(1) A majority of the Members of a committee shall constitute a quorum.

Occasions when quorum required

131(2) The presence of a quorum shall be required whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken by a committee, provided that any committee, by Order, may authorize the Chair to hold meetings to conduct hearings and receive evidence when a quorum is not present.

Procedure when quorum lacking

131(3) If there is no quorum present within 15 minutes of the time for a meeting to commence, the meeting must be adjourned. If at any time during a meeting attention is directed to a lack of quorum, the Chair shall suspend the meeting for up to 10 minutes and, if no quorum is formed, the meeting is adjourned.

Calling of witnesses and documents

132(1) A committee may direct that a witness be invited or called to appear before a committee and may request or may require the production of documents.

Members may request specific witnesses

132(2) Any Member of a committee may file with the committee a request that a witness be called, stating that the evidence to be obtained from such witness is, in the opinion of the Member, material and important.

Committee to order appearance of witness

132(3) If a witness is to be called to appear or required to produce documents, the requirement shall be by Order of the committee.

Approval of witness expenses

132(4) With the approval of the committee, the Chair may authorize the payment to any witness summoned a reasonable per diem during the witness' travel and attendance plus reasonable traveling expenses and disbursements.

Payment claim by witness

132(5) The claim of a witness for payment shall state the number of days during which the witness had been in attendance, the time of necessary travel to and from a committee meeting, the amount of the traveling expenses, which claim and statement shall be, before being paid, certified by the Chair and Clerk of the committee.

Witness list

132(6) The Chair will have discretion to decide which witnesses shall appear before a committee when a committee has established a meeting agenda but has not specified any person to examine. The attendance of any witness invited is subject to the final authority of the committee.

Examination under oath or affirmation

132(7) A witness may be examined under oath or affirmation.

Procedure for examination of witnesses

132(8) The examination of witnesses is to be conducted as the Chair directs, with the approval of the committee. All questions or comments to a witness shall be directed through the Chair.

Relevancy of questions

132(9) The Chair will take care to ensure that all questions put to a witness are relevant to the committee's proceedings and that the information sought by the questions is necessary for the purpose of those proceedings.

Objection to question

132(10) A Member or witness may object to a question on the ground that it is not relevant. The Chair will then determine whether it is relevant to the committee's proceedings.

Procedure upon refusal to answer

132(11) Where a witness objects on any ground to answering a relevant question put to the witness, the witness will be invited to state the grounds upon which the witness objects to answering the question. The committee will decide whether it will insist on an answer, having regard to the importance to the proceedings of the information sought by the question and whether the public interest would be best served by hearing the answer *in camera*.

Refusal of witness to appear

132(12) Where a witness declines a request to appear before a committee or to produce a document or to answer a question to which the committee has required an answer, the committee may report this fact to the Assembly.

Written submission may precede oral testimony

133(1) A witness will be given the opportunity to make a submission in writing before appearing to give oral evidence.

Request for written response

133(2) A committee may request that a witness respond to an oral question in writing within a designated period of time.

Committee documents are public

133(3) Any document received by a committee may be made available to the public except for those documents received under the terms of Rule 133(4).

Receipt of *in camera* evidence

133(4) Some or all of the evidence presented to a committee may, by Order, be heard or received *in camera*.

Recording of proceedings

134 A verbatim transcript shall be provided for all standing and special committees, except as may be otherwise ordered by a committee.

In camera consideration of substantive reports

135(1) All consideration and preparation of a substantive report by a committee shall be conducted *in camera*.

Confidentiality of draft reports

135(2) A report or a draft report of a committee or sub-committee is strictly confidential to the committee until it reports to the Assembly.

Committee reports

136(1) A committee shall report on any matter referred to it for consideration.

Minority reports not permitted

136(2) The report of a committee is the report as determined by the committee as a whole or a majority of the committee, and no minority report may be presented or received. In its discretion, a committee may include any dissenting opinion in its report.

Authentication of reports

136(3) All substantive reports of committees shall be in writing and signed by the Chair or by some other Member of the committee authorized to do so by the committee.

Interim reports

136(4) A committee may from time to time make an interim report informing the Assembly of its conclusions on any matter before it or the progress of its investigation into any matter.

Presentation of reports to Assembly

136(5) Reports from committees to the Assembly shall be presented at the time provided in Routine Proceedings, unless otherwise specified by Rules, and may be made by the Chair, any other Member of the committee, or by a Clerk-at-the-Table.

Filing and distribution of reports when Assembly not sitting

136(6) During any period when a Legislative session is prorogued or adjourned, a committee may file a report with the Clerk of the Assembly, who shall distribute the report to all Members of the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of *The Tabling of Documents Act, 1991*. Any report filed may be made generally available to the public but shall be presented to the Assembly in accordance with this Rule at the next sitting of the Assembly.

Ministerial responses to reports

136(7) When a committee requests a response to its report, a Minister of the Crown shall respond within 120 calendar days as to the action, if any, proposed to be taken by the government with respect to the recommendations of a committee.

Filing and distribution of responses

136(8) A response made to a committee report shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly, who shall ensure that the response is distributed and tabled in accordance with the provisions of this Rule.

Types of Standing Committees

Three types of standing committees

137 Standing committees shall be categorized as a House, scrutiny, or policy field committee.

House Committees

House committees

138 House committees are established for the following purposes:

Standing Committee on House Services; and
Standing Committee on Privileges.

Membership of Standing Committee on House Services

139(1) Membership of the Standing Committee on House Services shall consist of the Speaker as Chair and seven Members as follows:

(a) four Members from the government caucus, appointed by that caucus;
(b) two Members or, where there is no third party, three Members from the opposition caucus, appointed by that caucus; and
(c) one Member from the third party opposition caucus, if there is one, appointed by that caucus.

Convening of first meeting

139(2) The Standing Committee on House Services shall convene as soon as practicable after the election of a new Legislative Assembly to prepare, with all convenient speed, a report listing the Members to compose the standing committees of the Assembly.

Definition of subject areas for policy field committees

139(3) The Standing Committee on House Services shall determine, as soon as practicable, the allocation of government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations to the various committees. A schedule outlining the allocation, or any amendment made to the allocation, shall be distributed to Members of the Assembly and posted in the lobbies.

Oversight responsibilities

139(4) The Standing Committee on House Services may:

(a) establish and effect changes to the membership of any committee;
(b) establish and set the terms of reference for a special committee;
(c) extend the time limit for any inquiry being conducted by a policy field committee; and
(d) any such action shall be reported to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Examination of legislative branch estimates

139(5) In each session, the Estimates, Supplementary Estimates, and any Further Estimates, as laid before the Legislative Assembly for the operation of the legislative branch of government, shall be deemed referred to the Standing Committee on House Services pursuant to Rule 30(9). Upon completion of the examination of estimates, the Standing Committee on House Services shall report the estimates to the Assembly. Upon concurrence in the report, the sums so approved shall be included in the final Appropriation Bill.

Speaker shall not preside during estimates review

139(6) The Speaker shall not preside during the examination of bills or estimates by the Standing Committee on House Services.

Consideration of annual reports of House Officers and entities

139(7) The annual reports of any Officer or entity of the Assembly, as required to be tabled in the Assembly, shall be deemed to be permanently referred to the Standing Committee on House Services, which may, if it so determines, consider the annual reports in conjunction with the examination of estimates.

Examination of Assembly Rules and procedures

139(8) The Standing Committee on House Services may examine such matters as it deems advisable with respect to the Rules, procedures, practices and powers of the Legislative Assembly, its operation and organization, and the facilities and services provided to the Assembly, its committees and Members.

Examination of Legislative Assembly and Officer bills

139(9) Any bill related to the Legislative Assembly or the administration of its Officers, unless otherwise specified by the Rules, shall be committed to the Standing Committee on House Services. Bills referred to the Standing Committee on House Services shall be considered and reported in accordance with Rules for proceedings on public bills and Rules for bills specified on the Order Paper for completion.

Standing Committee on Privileges

140(1) The Standing Committee on Privileges shall examine and report on issues of privilege as referred to it by the Assembly.

Membership of Standing Committee on Privileges

140(2) Membership of the Standing Committee on Privileges consists of the Speaker as Chair and six other Members as the Assembly or as the Standing Committee on House Services may appoint.

Scrutiny Committees

Scrutiny Committees

141 Scrutiny committees are established for the following purposes:

Standing Committee on Public Accounts; and
Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Composition of Standing Committee on Public Accounts during 27th Legislature

142(1) The composition of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall consist of eight Members, including two opposition Members, and the Chair shall be a Member of the Opposition and the Deputy Chair shall be a government Member. *(Provisional Order Adopted March 4, 2013 -- see Appendix 6).*

Terms of reference

142(2) The Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall review and report to the Assembly its observations, opinions and recommendations on the Reports of the Provincial Auditor which are designated for referral to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts by *The Provincial Auditor Act*, and on the Public Accounts, which shall be deemed to have been permanently referred to the committee as they become available.

Examination of Provincial Auditor bills

142(3) Any bill related to the Provincial Auditor shall be committed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Bills referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall be considered and reported in accordance with Rules for proceedings on public bills and Rules for bills specified on the Order Paper for completion.

Statutory duties

142(4) The Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall undertake any other activities as prescribed by statute.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

143(1) In accordance with Rules pertaining to private bills, the Standing Committee on Private Bills shall consider and report on petitions for private bills and any private bill referred to the committee after second reading.

Report of Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel

143(2) Before any private bill is considered by the Standing Committee on Private Bills, the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel shall first submit a report in accordance with the provisions of Rules 100 and 159.

Majority decision

143(3) All questions before the Standing Committee on Private Bills are decided by a majority. When the votes on any question are equally divided, the question shall be negatived.

Vote by Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills

143(4) The Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills may vote on any question before the committee.

Policy Field Committees

Subject areas of policy field committees

144 Four policy field committees are established to consider matters relating to generally defined subject areas as follows:

(a) *Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies* – portfolio to relate to the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan and its subsidiaries, supply and services, central government agencies, liquor, gaming, and all other revenue related agencies and entities;

(b) *Standing Committee on the Economy* – portfolio to relate to the areas of economic development, agriculture, environment, natural resources, rural issues, transportation, and infrastructure;

(c) *Standing Committee on Human Services* – portfolio to relate to the areas of health, social services, education, labour, public safety, and security; and

(d) *Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice* – portfolio to relate to the areas of justice; municipal, intergovernmental, inter-provincial, aboriginal and northern affairs; and tourism, parks, culture, and sport.

Referral of annual reports to policy field committees

145(1) The annual reports of each government ministry, agency, and Crown corporation, in accordance with the guidelines set out in by Rule 144, shall be deemed to be permanently referred to a policy field committee.

Review of annual reports

145(2) Each policy field committee may:

(a) examine each annual report referred to it and report to the Assembly whether the report is satisfactory;

(b) consider in more detail, and report to the Assembly, on each annual report it considers unsatisfactory;

(c) investigate and report to the Assembly on any lateness in the tabling of annual reports;

(d) if the committee so determines, consider annual reports in conjunction with the examination of estimates;

(e) report to the Assembly each year whether there are any bodies which do not table annual reports in the Assembly and which should present such reports.

Referral of Provincial Auditor reports related to certain Crown corporations

145(3) Reports of the Provincial Auditor, as they relate to the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan and its subsidiaries, shall be deemed permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Referral of significant transaction reports of certain Crown corporations

145(4) The Minister responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan shall provide the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies a letter of notification regarding significant transactions made by the corporation or any of its subsidiaries within 90 days of the transaction having occurred. The notification shall outline the objectives of the transaction, the financial implications, a statement of any changed liabilities and the authority under which such a transaction was made.

Consideration of bills by policy field committees

146 Any bill referred to a policy field committee shall be considered and reported in accordance with Rules for proceedings on public bills and Rules for bills specified on the Order Paper for completion.

Referral of regulations and bylaws to policy field committees

147(1) Every regulation and bylaw of a professional association, and any amendments, filed with the Legislative Assembly pursuant to any statutory provision shall, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Rule 144, be permanently referred to a policy field committee for review.

Consideration of regulations by policy field committees

147(2) Policy field committees shall review regulations and all amendments to regulations in order to determine whether the special attention of the Assembly should be drawn to any regulation on any of the following grounds:

(a) the regulation imposes a charge on the public revenue not specifically provided for by statute;

(b) the regulation prescribes a payment to be made by any public authority that is not specifically provided for by an Act of the Legislative Assembly;

(c) the regulation may not be challenged in the courts;

(d) the regulation makes unusual use of the authority provided for in the parent Act;

(e) the regulation has an unexpected effect where the parent Act confers no express authority for that effect;

(f) the regulation purports to have retroactive or retrospective effect where the parent statute confers no express authority to have a retroactive or retrospective effect;

(g) the regulation has been insufficiently promulgated, is outside the scope of the parent Act, has not been enacted properly, or has been made without the necessary statutory authority;

(h) the regulation is not clear in meaning;

(i) the regulation is in any way prejudicial to the public interest.

Consideration of bylaws by policy field committees

147(3) Policy field committees shall review the bylaws of professional associations and amendments to bylaws to determine whether or not they are in any way prejudicial to the public interest.

Public hearings on regulations and bylaws

147(4) Policy field committees may conduct a public hearing on any regulation or bylaw of a professional association referred to it for review.

Committee to inform intention to report

147(5) Policy field committees shall be required, prior to reporting that the special attention of the Assembly be drawn to any regulation or bylaw, to inform the government ministry or authority concerned of its intention so to report.

Assistance of Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel for review of regulations and bylaws

147(6) Policy field committees shall have the assistance of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel in reviewing the regulations and bylaws.

Examination of estimates

148(1) In each session, the Estimates, Supplementary Estimates, and any Further Estimates, as laid before the Legislative Assembly for the operation of the executive branch of government, shall be deemed referred to a policy field committee pursuant to Rule 31(9) and the allocation of government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations established under Rule 138(3). This Rule does not apply to any estimate specified by the Rules for referral to the Committee of Finance.

Consideration and report on estimates

148(2) Each policy field committee shall consider the proposed estimates referred to it and report to the Assembly.

Procedure for review of estimates

148(3) The Chair shall call items of expenditure in the order they are presented and each item called shall be, without motion, considered a distinct question that shall be carried, or reduced, or negatived. This Rule does not apply when estimates are subject to the Rules for the disposal of estimates on the sitting day prior to the Completion Day.

Ministers and officials to appear before committee

148(4) Each policy field committee may ask for explanations from Ministers of the Crown or Officers relating to the items of proposed expenditure.

Reporting procedure

148(5) Upon completion of the examination of estimates referred to a policy field committee, the committee shall report the estimates to the Assembly, and upon concurrence in such report, the sums so approved shall be included in the final Appropriation Bill.

Policy field committee inquiries

149(1) A policy field committee shall inquire into, consider and report on any matter referred to it by the Assembly.

Power to initiate inquiries

149(2) A policy field committee may, on its own initiative or at the request of a Minister of the Crown, inquire into any matter concerned with the structure, organization, operation, efficiency and service delivery of any sector of public policy within its portfolio.

Inquiries ordered by Assembly to take priority

149(3) An Order of the Assembly that a policy field committee undertake an inquiry shall take priority over any other inquiry, and a policy field committee shall not inquire into any matters which are being examined by a special committee.

Deadline for completing inquiries

149(4) All inquiries must be concluded and a substantive report presented to the Assembly no later than six months after the commencement of the inquiry. The committee may request an extension of time by appeal to the Assembly or, if the Assembly is prorogued or adjourned, to the Standing Committee on House Services.

Restrictions on initiating inquiries

149(5) Inquiries may be initiated only after a session is adjourned or prorogued, or unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.

Board to approve additional funding

149(6) Funding for the purposes of undertaking an inquiry, in addition to the committees' regular allocation, is subject to the prior approval of the Board of Internal Economy.

Additional Members participating in inquiries

150(1) Policy field committees are empowered to temporarily expand their membership to include additional Members of the Assembly for the purpose of allowing those Members to participate in an inquiry.

Duration of additional Member's participation

150(2) The duration of membership of the participating additional Member shall be set by the policy field committee, during which time the additional Member may participate in hearings and deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of Members of committees, but may not move motions, count for quorum, raise a point of order or vote on any questions before the committee.

Questions before policy field committees

151(1) When the votes on any question before a committee are equally divided, the question shall be negatived.

Vote by Chair of policy field committee

151(2) The Chair of a policy field committee may vote on any question before the committee.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Appointment of special committees

152(1) By Order, the Assembly may, on Notice of Motion, authorize the appointment of special committees to meet and report on specified subjects during the term of the Legislature in which they were appointed.

Application of standing committee Rules

152(2) The mandate, powers and general provisions of standing committees shall apply to special committees.

Lists of committees appointed

153 The Clerk of the Assembly shall affix in the lobbies of the Assembly a list of the standing and special committees appointed during the Legislature.

OFFER OF MONEY TO MEMBERS

High crime and misdemeanour

154 The offer of any money or other advantage to any Member of the Assembly for the promotion of any matter whatsoever pending or to be transacted in the Legislature is a high crime and misdemeanour, and tends to the subversion of the Constitution.

BRIBERY IN ELECTIONS

Proceedings in case of bribery

155 If it shall appear that any person has been elected and returned a Member of this Assembly, or endeavoured so to be, by bribery or any other corrupt practices, the Assembly will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been willfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

OFFICIALS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Clerk responsible for records

156 The Clerk of the Assembly shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all papers and records of the Assembly and shall have the direction and control over all officials, clerks, and other employees, subject to such orders as he or she may, from time to time, receive from the Speaker or the Assembly.

Distributes list of reports

157 The Clerk of the Assembly shall be responsible for the production and delivery to each Member, at the commencement of every session, a list of reports or other periodical statements which it is the duty of any official or ministry of the government or any corporate body to make to the Assembly, referring to the Act or resolution wherein the same may be ordered, and showing when the same should be made.

To employ extra assistants

158 The Clerk of the Assembly, with the approval of the Speaker, shall at the outset of a session employ such extra assistants as may be necessary for recording and transcribing the *Debates and Proceedings*, and such others as the public business may require.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: duties of

159 It shall be the duty of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the Assembly to:

(a) revise, put marginal notes upon and print all bills, and be generally responsible for the correctness of all bills in their various stages;

(b) report to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills:

(i) any provisions in private bills which are at variance with general Acts on the subject to which such bills may relate, or with the usual provisions of private Acts on similar subjects;

(ii) any provision deserving of special attention;

(iii) any provisions that do not appear to have been contemplated in the petition for the bill; and

(iv) generally in accordance with the provisions of Rules 100 and 143.

(c) report to the Chair of any committee to which a bill (where a form of model bill has been adopted) may have been referred, any provisions which are not in accord with the model bill, or any exceptional provisions that may be proposed to be inserted in such bill;

(d) revise before third reading all amendments made by any committee;

(e) be responsible for the printing and correctness of the annual volume of Statutes, which is to be issued within 30 days after the close of the session.

Sergeant-at-Arms responsible for Mace and Chamber fittings

160(1) The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the safekeeping of the Mace and for the furniture and fittings of the Assembly Chamber.

Persons in custody

160(2) No stranger or any other person who has been committed, by Order of the Assembly, to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be released without an Order of the Assembly.

Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms

160(3) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall serve all Orders of the Assembly upon those whom they may concern and is entrusted with the execution of warrants issued by the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms to preserve order and security in Legislative precinct

160(4) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order in the galleries, corridors, and lobbies of the Assembly. Under the direction of the Speaker, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall provide security for the Legislative Building and the grounds immediately surrounding the Legislative Building.

Absence of Sergeant-at-Arms

160(5) In case of the absence of the Sergeant-at-Arms, the duties shall be performed by any person appointed by the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms to direct ushers and guards

160(6) The Sergeant-at-Arms has the direction of all ushers and guards appointed for the service of the Legislative Assembly.

Completion of work at close of session

161 It shall be the duty of the Officers of the Assembly to complete and finish the work remaining at the close of the session.

THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

Management of

162 The management of the Library, including regulation of admission, Library hours, and security and preservation of the collection, is the responsibility of the Legislative Librarian, subject to such special orders as may be received from the Assembly. The Legislative Librarian shall make an Annual Report to the Assembly through the Speaker.

Catalogue to be kept

163 A catalogue of books belonging to the Library shall be kept, and pertinent statistics relative to the collection and its utilization shall be maintained and reported in the Legislative Librarian's Annual Report.

Gregory A. Putz
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly